8 Korean media outlets visit the Marianas. PAGE 2

PSS celebrates 12 years of Educational Technology Training Program. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

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Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) pays her respects to fallen heroes during the CNMI's Memorial Day celebration yesterday at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Memorial Day celebration pays tribute to Local Marine Scouts

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Office of the Veterans Affairs unveiled yesterday the Local Marine Scouts monument in honor of the Provisional Marines, commonly known as Local Marine Scouts, enlisted by the Second Marine Division to aid in the Battle of Saipan and Tinian back in 1944 to flush out Japanese stragglers and snipers.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

This year's Memorial Day celebration was made extra special with the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs officially unveiling the Local Marine Scouts monument located at the Veterans Cemetery

See MEMORIAL on Page 4

At KILILI'S REQUEST:

US Navy directed to report on port improvements on Tinian

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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CORRESPONDENT

Sablan

At the request of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee directed the U.S. Navy this week to report to Congress on the port improvements needed on Tinian for the military build-up there.

See TINIAN on Page 4

DPS

Photo released by the Department of Public Safety shows the the man who is now wanted for questioning in connection to the Department of Corrections contraband smuggling incident.

DPS and DOC need help in ID'ing contraband thrower

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

Both the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Corrections are asking for the public's assistance in identifying the person in a series of released images from DPS surrounding the case of contraband being thrown into the DOC's recreational space.

The images were released last Friday after a mysterious figure was reportedly spotted tossing contraband over the DOC's fence during inmates' recreation time last May 15. The incident prompted swift response from DOC and DPS, but despite the search efforts, the individual remains unidentified, leaving DOC and DPS urging the community for assistance.

DOC Commissioner Anthony Torres earlier described the person of interest as male, around 5'5 to 5'8,

See DPS on Page 4

Building a resilient economy, together

By GOV. ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Though I appreciate the recent efforts by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to gather local businesses and decision-makers to put forth ideas to accelerate the Commonwealth's economic recovery, I am

See BUILDING on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2024 2nd Quarter Professional Development Training is "Effective Communication in the Workplace" facilitated by Kevin Bautista.
PAGE 10

WORLD
The European Union's foreign policy chief insisted Sunday that Israel must abide by the U.N. top court's rulings and end its offensive in the southern Gaza city of Rafah.
PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE
Movie theaters are looking more and more like a wasteland this summer. Neither "Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga" nor "The Garfield Movie" could save Memorial Day weekend, which is cruising towards a two-decade low.
PAGE 11

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

8 Korean media outlets visit the Marianas

Eight South Korean media outlets have visited the Marianas on a whirlwind tour of the islands that is being featured in news and feature stories in the destination's top source market.

The tour was led by the Marianas Visitors Authority, with media reps hitting the ground running upon their arrival in Saipan on May 10. Their information and image-gathering quest included a tour of iconic sites, a visit and interview with representatives of 500 Sails about indigenous Carolinian and Chamorro maritime skills, inspections of the professionally designed courses at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort and Coral Ocean Resort. Other activities included coverage of the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival, stargazing, DFS T Galleria, I Love Saipan, CK Smokehouse, Ataari cultural dinner show, Chunji Restaurant, and Inas' Kitchen.

The group also took a day-trip to Tinian, which include a tour of historic and scenic sites, an interview with resident Petra Cabrera about the processing of Tinian's famous "donni sali" hot pepper.

The media also conducted an interview with Korean Cultural Center on Saipan's Hong Kyun Kim—who is also director of the Memorial Service Association for Deceased Compatriots Overseas' Saipan Branch—and Tinian Korean Cultural Center director Jin Ho Sung at Tinian's iconic JC Cafe. The two spoke on the cultural and historical ties of The Marianas and Korea.

"We are still enjoying strong demand for Saipan in Korea, and we have been strategically leveraging that to drive through traffic to Tinian and Rota, as much as air service can accommodate," said MVA Marketing manager Thomas Kim. "With the support of our MVA member businesses and organizations, this tour provides a solid return-on-investment toward attracting more visitors to our paradise destination."

Participating media were *Herald Economy*, *Yonhap* magazine, *Maeil Business Newspaper, Hankook Ilbo*, *edaily*, *Digital Chosun*, *The Kukmin Daily*, and *Sports Kyunghyang*. The Marianas will receive an estimated $84,000 in ad exposure from the on- and off-line media coverage.

The group stayed at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan and Saipan World Resort during their visit and departed last May 13. ***(PR)***

MVA

Representatives of eight Korean media outlets visit House of Taga on Tinian prepare news and entertainment coverage of the destination. House of Taga is listed on the U.S. National Registry of Historic Places. The media trip was organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

MVA

Representatives of eight Korean media outlets and their guides pay their respects at the Korean Memorial on Saipan. The memorial commemorates those who lost their lives during World War II. The media were in The Marianas to prepare news and entertainment coverage on the destination in coordination with the Marianas Visitors Authority.

MVA

Representatives of eight Korean media outlets capture a 360-degree view of Saipan from Mt. Tapochau. The media were in the Marianas to prepare news and entertainment coverage on the destination in coordination with the Marianas Visitors Authority.

A non-profit organization run by and for persons with disabilities

Center for Living Independently in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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P.O. Box 5759 CHRB
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Email: clisusansatur@gmail.com • Fax: 670-322-4307
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Job Vacancy Announcement

Home Health Education Specialist
3-month contract only July-September 2024.

Job Description:
- Teaches communication skills
- Teaches socialization skills
- Increases the client's independence
- Supports the development of decision-making skills and informed choices in all aspects of daily living
- Assist Executive Director and Administrative Assistant
- Directly connect consumers with community resources
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- Documentation of all activities on CLI suite
- Other duties as assigned

Documents required
High School Diploma/DEGREE, RESUME/BIODATA, COPY OF VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE, Covid Vaccination record card. If hired CURRENT POLICE CLEARANCE is needed

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE
Please submit resumes to ssatur@clicnmi.org or submit to Building 1366 in capitol hill

Salary dependent on qualification

Closing Date: June 15, 2024

19 MHS students pass IT specialist certification course

The CNMI Public School System's Career and Technical Education Program and Island Training Solutions proudly announce the successful completion of the IT Specialist Certification Program by its first batch of 19 students from Marianas High School. These students undertook the challenging semester-long IT Specialist-Device Configuration and Repair certification course through Certiport. This certification is recognized worldwide and is a foundational course for other IT-related courses and pathways including networking and cybersecurity. These students are ready to intern work begin entry-level positions.

"This is the first IT certification course offered through Certiport and its Regional Partner Island Training Solutions and we believe it is the first certification course of its kind offered in the public school system. This course demonstrates PSS's commitment to excellence in the field of Information Technology for its students" said Jim Arenovski of Island Training Solutions.

The course was offered through Career and Technical Education under the leadership of Dr. Jessica Taylor and Marianas High School. A special thank you goes to principal Johnathan Aguon for supplying the classroom for this after-school offering.

The course was taught under the expert guidance of Bel Busby and her team, these students dedicated themselves to mastering the complexities of computer components, software, and troubleshooting, equipping themselves with essential skills for their future careers. The certification opens up a myriad of pathways for these students, providing them with a solid foundation to pursue further education or enter the workforce as IT specialists. Each successful student received a laptop computer, professional IT tool kit, and $300 stipend for taking the class.

"I took the IT specialist course to further drive my interest in technology and gain more knowledge within the field," said Christhena Amaro, a graduate of the program. "Completing the course has made me feel confident and eager to apply what I've learned into real-world scenarios. I also have a deep sense of accomplishment knowing that I've tackled a new subject and learned a new skill. This class has been a fun learning experience as well as a great opportunity to meet new people."

"As a (young) kid, I always loved working with technology and computers, so when I saw this opportunity to learn something new, I immediately took it," said Gabriel Galang, another student. "Finishing this course makes me want to continue learning more topics related to computer science."

"After finishing the course, I felt really refreshed, especially after taking the certification exam. Moreover, I felt some pressure from trying not to fail the course because I personally didn't want any of the instructors' efforts to go to waste which is why I felt refreshed after finishing the program," said Angelie Tobias, a student in the program. "I took the course because I wanted to expand my knowledge on the technical aspects of technology. I also wanted to build my own computer and because I took the course, my expectations were met."

"I am incredibly proud of our students' accomplishments," said Busby, instructor for the IT Specialist Class. "Their hard work, dedication, and commitment to learning have been truly inspiring. Witnessing their growth and seeing their passion for technology flourish has been a rewarding experience for me as an educator. I have no doubt that they will go on to achieve great success in their future endeavors."

The certification ceremony, held on May 17, 2024, celebrated the achievements of these students and honored their dedication to becoming certified IT specialists.

For more information on IT training and certifications courses, contact Island Training Solutions at sales.islandtrianing@gmail.com or visit our website at www.islandtrainingcnmi.com. ***(PR)***

ITS

Jim Arenovski of Island Training Solutions, seated; Dr. Jessica Taylor, head Career Technical Education, far left; and Bel Busby, IT Instructor for Island Training Solutions right standing in white; Dan Montano, assistant instructor, kneeling in the middle; and Trey Hocog, ITS marketing assistant; with Marianas High School IT Specialist Certification Program graduates.

Class of 2024 honored at UAF's 102nd commencement ceremony

FAIRBANKS, Alaska—The University of Alaska Fairbanks honored the Class of 2024 during its 102nd commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 4, at the Carlson Center in Fairbanks.

The commencement ceremony included graduates hailing from the CNMI during summer and fall 2023 and spring 2024.

■ Ana Ada of Saipan (96950) — Bachelor of Arts, Social Work

■ Caitlin Denise King of Saipan (96950) — Bachelor of Arts, Social Work, Cum Laude

■ Francine Rago of Saipan (96950) — Bachelor of Arts, Social Work, Cum Laude

The university's first commencement took place in 1923, when the sole graduate, John Sexton Shanly, received a bachelor's degree in agriculture. This year, UAF conferred approximately 1,156 degrees on 1,031 students. Some students received more than one degree. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT #07-2024(b)

Opening date: May 20, 2024 **Closing date: June 07, 2024**

Location:	**SAIPAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) ARFF Mechanic II	PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr to $15.85/hr)
	(1) ARFF Trainee	PL 5/1 ($8.83/hr)
Location:	**TINIAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(4) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)
Location:	**ROTA**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Custodial/Maintenance-I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr)
	(2) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, June 07, 2024**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (SAIPAN)

ACCOUNTANT

Delta Management Corporation, which operates 5 Shell Branded Gas Stations and Convenience Stores is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Accountant. Successful applicants will act as the main point of contact between the company and vendors, partners and other external parties, ensuring smooth communication and coordination. Must be proficient with QuickBooks, NAV, Microsoft Excel and Word programs and be flexible, adaptable and work in a fast-paced environment.

The successful candidate must be organized, trustworthy, able to work on a team and have a great attitude.

- Demonstrate understanding of accounting controls and principles.
- Review financial statements for accuracy and compliance.
- Generate weekly cash position reports.
- Responsible for accurately reviewing payroll data and entering it into QuickBooks.
- Responsible for accurate auditing of daily sales reports for service stations
- Responsible for monthly sales summary reports and fuel reconciliation.
- Review and provide deposit reconciliation and create cash flow projections.
- Adhere to and meet reporting deadlines.
- Prepare Monthly BGRT reports and other tax and compliance reports.
- Must have thorough analytical skills for the reconciliation of fleet cards and credit card transactions.

On-island reference & police clearance required.

E-mail resume to: islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com

CPUC reappointment of Angello moves to House floor

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Committees on Judicial and Governmental Operations, and Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications unanimously approved the recommendation of the administration of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang to reappoint former Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission commissioner Dr. John "Jack" A. Angello. The recommendation now moves to the entire House floor for a vote.

Last Wednesday, JGO chair Rep. Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan), House vice speaker Rep. Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan), House floor leader Rep. Edwin Propst (D-Saipan), and Reps. Malcolm Omar (Ind-Saipan), Manny Gregory T. Castro (Ind-Saipan), Diego Vincent F. Camacho (D-Saipan), John Paul Sablan (D-Saipan). and Roman C. Benavente (Ind-Saipan) voted to approve the administration's recommendation to reappoint Angello to the CPUC.

Angello's initial term expired last April which caused the commission to go without quorum for that last month hindering the commission from moving forward with important decisions.

With the committees voting to approve the administration's recommendation, the recommendation now moves to the entire House floor for discussion and approval before moving to the Senate.

Should his reappointment be confirmed by the Senate, Angello will again represent Saipan on the CPUC as a commissioner.

In a short comment from Angello, he said he appreciates the administration and the committee's trust in him to reappoint him. He added that he hopes his nomination moves forward so he can get back to work.

"The commission is very important and we need it to help the islands in terms of regulating different utility entities," he said.

Also present last Wednesday to show their support for Angello's reappointment were CPUC chair James Sirok and special assistant for Administration Oscar M. Babauta. Both of whom expressed their support for Angello's reappointment before the committees.

Sirok, in his comments, said Angello has the interest of the Commonwealth and its people at heart and has performed his responsibilities with due diligence.

Meanwhile, Babauta shared that the CPUC is an important regulatory body that oversees utility rates therefore it is critical that Angello's reappointment moves forward in order for the commission to have quorum again.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission chair James Sirok, left, and former CPUC commissioner John Jack Angello pose for a photo after the House Committees on Judicial and Governmental Operations, and Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications unanimously approved the administration's recommendation to reappoint Angello.

TINIAN

From page 1

In his *e-kilili* newsletter over the weekend, Sablan said rebuilding the port is a long-standing goal of the people of Tinian, but justifying that expense is key to unlocking the millions of dollars needed.

He said the Appropriations Committee's action is a "significant step toward justifying the dollars."

The delegate noted that the Navy has already acknowledged the critical importance of the Tinian Port Joint Area Development Plan.

Sablan said appropriators now want to know more specifically the major and minor construction projects under consideration by the Navy to support port operations, the design options to maximize training capabilities, coordination efforts with the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and actions the Navy can take to accelerate the port projects.

He said these instructions are all included in the report accompanying the fiscal year 2025 military construction, Veterans Affairs, and related agencies funding bill the committee marked up on Thursday.

The committee directed the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for energy, installations, and environment to "provide a report, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act."

Sablan said the bill is the first of the 12 FY 2025 appropriations bills to clear the committee and now heads to the House floor for consideration.

According to the Tinian Port Working Group's Joint Area Development Concept dated July 10, 2023, the port was constructed in 1945 by Seabees and no major repairs done since then.

Breakwater, finger piers, and berths condition ranges from severely deteriorated to operational but in need of significant repair.

The Department of Defense's current uses of port include support for limited training activities and support for Divert Airfield construction.

DoD's future uses of port include support port expanded training activities, support for refueling for DoD airport fuel storage, and support for future DoD construction.

BUILDING

From page 1

disappointed by the narrative that continues to be pushed in the press and by certain business interests, that the People's Republic of China is the only answer to our current economic struggles.

This narrative ignores the geopolitical realities in which we live and which I as governor cannot so easily dismiss. It ignores the fraught adversarial relationship between our nation and the PRC, and the fact that the Mariana Islands sit smack in the middle of a brewing conflict in the Indo-Pacific. It ignores lessons we should have learned from our own history.

In the CNMI, our overdependence on Chinese-backed investment runs deep and goes back decades: from poker to the garment industry, tourism, and casino gaming. These investments often perpetuated dependence, so that even when those industries proved detrimental—whether to the social fabric, the environment, or national security—many of our business and political leaders were willing to look the other way. And it was hard to imagine alternatives.

Overdependence makes us vulnerable—to external shocks as well as political and economic coercion by malicious foreign actors. Public corruption and financial recklessness have also made us vulnerable. The Commonwealth is navigating such rough waters today largely because my predecessor squandered hundreds of millions of dollars in federal aid in less than two years before his term ended. And some of the biggest beneficiaries of that squandering are the same people telling us today that they have the solutions and China is the key.

Those federal recovery funds were intended to cushion the impacts of natural disasters and a global pandemic, and the difficult economic challenges that lay ahead. For the most part, those funds are gone now. No other state or territory has blasted through its recovery money so quickly, and so carelessly.

My predecessor, the sole expenditure authority for nearly half a billion dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act, chose to spend those funds on short-term ventures with dubious results—like travel bubbles, airline subsidies that actually incentivized half-empty planes, free money for tourists, subsidies for a short-lived start-up airline, and the notorious and embarrassing BOOST program. The Commonwealth Ports Authority, under his appointees, chose to hire a Washington, D.C. firm at $1,000/hour to lobby for unlimited flights from mainland China, while also at the same time squeezing our remaining airlines by increasing fees up to 90%.

These were not prudent decisions, and we are still dealing with the repercussions today.

I can't stress enough that we're in this together. I urge our business community and media partners to recognize that recovery will take time, patience, and collective commitment. Yes, the PRC is a significant source market for tourists and investors, but it is not the only one. We cannot afford to ignore the geopolitical realities and persistent threats associated with the PRC that impact our long-term recovery and national security. Even if implemented today, all of the China tourism tools that dominate the Chamber's list of priorities can be yanked from us at any time, for national security reasons or other reasons. We must diversify our economy beyond a single reliance on one country, and commit as a Commonwealth to developing more stable, reliable markets among our democratic allies in the region.

We also have to project a positive, unified image of the Marianas to attract visitors and investors globally. Gloomy forecasts and false "China or bust" narratives are unhelpful. Constant negative messaging undermines investor confidence and our efforts to achieve long-term stability and resiliency.

The relationship between our nation and the PRC is tense, complex, and ever-evolving, and our islands play a unique, strategic role in preserving national security and peace in the region. That was part of the deal when we embraced our Covenant and became part of the American political family. As governor, I have an obligation to balance multiple imperatives to responsibly manage our resources, develop our economy, and ensure the safety and security of our people.

The CNMI is a safe, friendly, and beautiful place, and we welcome visitors and investors from all over the world. Recovery takes time, but we are recovering, and making sound investments today to enhance our islands, develop our infrastructure and our workforce, and strengthen our relationships with federal partners and regional allies. Building a resilient economy requires us to recognize realities—both threats and opportunities—and to make wise choices about how we invest our resources. It also requires us to be all in, together, for the long haul.

May God bless the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DPS

From page 1

between 100 lbs. to 200 lbs., with medium-tanned skin, and short wavey hair. In addition, the suspect was last seen wearing a blue turquoise shirt with a light-brown long sleeve camouflage jacket, dark colored shorts, and slippers.

Torres emphasized the seriousness of the offense under the newly implemented contraband law. Additionally, he revealed the dismissal of two DOC personnel for similar offenses, highlighting the enforcement of the law's consequences.

DPS Commissioner Anthony Macaranas assured the public of thorough investigation and subsequent prosecution by the Office of the Attorney General once the case concludes.

Both DPS and DOC are requesting the public assistance in identifying the individual, as the man is now wanted for questioning in reference to the DOC contraband smuggling incident.

Community members may call the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau at (670) 664-9042, the DPS Front desk at (670) 664-9001, or the Crime Stoppers hotline (670) 234-7272 if they wish to remain anonymous.

MEMORIAL

From page 1

in Marpi that will list all the names of the Chamorro and Carolinian men who risked their lives to help U.S Marines flush out Japanese stragglers and snipers from the island of Saipan and Tinian who remained in hiding after WWII.

Yesterday, the CNMI Office of Veteran's Affairs hosted a beautiful, solemn ceremony at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi in honor of the men and women who laid down their lives in service to their nation.

This year's celebration was a momentous occasion as the OVA officially unveiled the Local Marine Scouts monument erected at the Veterans Cemetery.

According to OVA acting executive director Bernadita B. Dela Cruz, because this year marks the 80th anniversary of the "Peace of the Pacific" battle of Saipan and Tinian, the OVA is honoring the CNMI Marine Scouts who served from September 1945 to June 1946.

Named "Provisional Marines" by the Second Marine Division (also known as Local Marine Scouts) back in 1945, over 50 Chamorro and Carolinian men were selected by the U.S Marines to protect, guard, and clear the islands of Saipan and Tinian for any danger posed by Japanese stragglers or snipers who remained in hiding after the war.

These men were specifically selected to guide U.S Marines in the battle to rid Saipan and Tinian of Japanese snipers as they received training under the Japanese Armed Forces in rifle use and fire and explosive detection.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PSS celebrates 12 years of Educational Technology Training Program

PSS
Attendees of the Public School System-Office of Instructional Technology & Distance Education's 12th annual program showcase for the Educational Technology Training Program pose for a group photo at the Kensington Hotel Saipan Hall last May 18.

The Public School System's Office of Instructional Technology & Distance Education hosted its 12th annual program showcase for the Educational Technology Training Program or EdTech.

The event was held last May 18 at the Kensington Hotel Saipan Hall and saw 200 attendees consisting of EdTech graduates, EdTech instructors, PSS key management, members from the Board of Education, and school administrators from both public and private schools.

The EdTech Program is a year-long training program consisting of five 45-hour certification courses that involve using and integrating technology to improve the quality of instruction and learning. Upon completion of the course, the amount of time put into professional development equates to 225 hours. This year, the program graduated a total of 129 participants. Throughout the program, participants explored the diverse suite of Google tools to support teaching and learning, discussed the importance of empowering students to be proactive digital citizens, and examined student-centered applications to produce a variety of products such as multimedia presentations, infographics, and dynamic videos.

Congratulatory remarks were delivered by senior director Jackie Quitugua, from the Office of Curriculum and Instruction and acting Board of Education chairperson Maisie Tenorio. PSS and BOE leadership shared a joint message of pride for the hard work and commitment of all Ed Tech participants from both the private and public schools to grow as professionals and embrace the role that technology plays in supporting learning in the 21st century.

A participant in the program, Kierah Lee, teacher aide from the Head Start Program, shared "I appreciate the chance to challenge my existing knowledge and gain fresh perspectives. All of the apps served a valuable purpose and were adaptable to each occupation, whether we used them for teaching, family partnership advocacy, or administrative work."

Jace Pineda, classroom teacher at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, shared, "I have learned a variety of skills and tools throughout this program... being able to try out all the different apps/resources that could be used in my classroom—many of which I was able to try this school year."

Lorraine Catienza, Instructional Technology director, stated, "We continue to refine the program with our amazing EdTech instructors to improve the quality of learning for the professionals we serve. Our goal is to continue to employ the transformative use of technology to support teaching and learning and prepare our educators to participate and succeed in an increasingly tech-driven world. Our educators are the key to making this goal a reality, so we continue to invest in them." ***(PR)***

Red Cross volunteers assist fire victims

» Red Cross encourages community to test smoke alarms, practice escape plans

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
American Red Cross-NMI Chapter volunteers help affected individuals of last May 18's fire in Susupe by providing emergency assistance.

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter volunteers responded to a structure fire in Susupe at approximately 11:30pm late May 18 and assisted a total of 18 individuals who were displaced as a result of the fire.

Red Cross volunteer responders Alvin Borja, Jack Amirez, Mae Angui, Anneli Arcega, and Luis Crisistomo Jr. were dispatched to the scene and met with the affected residents.

Affected individuals were provided emergency assistance at the time of the incident. Additional follow-up visits and calls were made by volunteers to provide clean-up kits for clients to use as they returned to their homes.

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive Director John Hirsh stated that "home fires are always unexpected, so families need to prepare in advance by installing smoke alarms and having a home fire evacuation plan…your life may depend on it!"

WHAT PEOPLE CAN DO

People can visit redcross.org/homefires to find out more about how to protect themselves and their loved homes from fire. They can also become a Red Cross Disaster Action Team volunteer by contacting the NMI chapter office at (670) 234-3459 or by visiting our website at www.redcross.org/nmi. ***(PR)***

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP24-GOV/CIP-42400090
ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE CUSTOMS & BIOSECURITY OFFICE, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM ChST JUNE 21, 2024

Governor Arnold I. Palcios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program, are soliciting sealed proposals for the "Architectural and Engineering Services for the Customs & Biosecurity Office" project in Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only beginning **May 21, 2024** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours or online at Vendor Self Service at selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/Vendors/VBids.

A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference will be held virtually via Google Meet at **10:00 AM ChST June 5, 2024.** Proposers may request for the invitation via email to Ms. Sunny Aldan-Salas at sunny.aldan@gov.mp. Questions regarding this RFP may be sumitted via email to Ms. Sunny Aldan-Salas at sunny.aldan@gov.mp no later than **4:00 PM ChST June 12, 2024**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective proposers.

Proposers located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent Form to the Acting Director of Procurement Services via email (bidintent@dof.gov.mp) no later than 10:00 AM ChST, June 21, 2024.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas Jr., Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-24-022
WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified insurance firms to provide workers' compensation insurance and administration for CUC's employees throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and when on official business away from the CNMI.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) Original and Six (6) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-24-022, Workers' Compensation Insurance & Administration"***, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than June 25, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 5, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Francisco Matsunaga, CUC Human Resource Manager, via email francisco.matsunaga@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

What climate change? As South Florida sizzles, DeSantis chooses denial with new law

This month has already proven be one for the records—the hottest May ever documented in Miami, based on the heat index, a "feels like" measure that accounts for temperature and humidity. The index this past weekend peaked at a staggering 112 degrees, the Herald reported Tuesday.

The extreme weather has been the result of a perfect storm of fewer clouds, moist air coming from the southwest and the air sinking and warming, an occurrence known as a high-pressure ridge, the Herald reported. Last summer's unbearable temperatures were influenced by the El Niño phenomenon.

But scientists have made it clear: climate change is making these record-high temperatures and hotter summers more common. The whole planet has gotten warmer.

As Miami-Dade County takes the lead by planting more tree canopies (though that's not going as planned, as the Herald reported) and having conversations about a green sustainable future, Florida has knee-capped many of those efforts, as well as efforts to deal with some effects of climate change.

Gov. Ron DeSantis signed legislation this year that prohibits local governments from passing heat protections for outdoor workers. Another bill he signed last week deletes most references to climate change from state law, among other things.

Ironically, both laws will go into effect this summer, on July 1, while many of us brace for another season of potentially sweltering temperatures and the possibility of farm workers dying from excessive heat, as it reportedly happened in 2023.

To give the governor credit, the state has invested millions of dollars in sea-level and flooding resilience projects and he even appointed a chief resilience officer. But Florida ignores that the long-term solution is to reduce carbon emissions, though we recognize that it takes more than one state to accomplish that.

House Bill 1645 removes the word "climate" from Florida statute in nine different instances, limits renewable energy production and likely expands the use of fossil fuels, according to the CLEO Institute. The legislation bans offshore windmill turbines and relaxes regulations of natural gas pipelines.

In some cases, the bill's deletions of climate change seem innocuous. In others, those deletions are more far-reaching.

For example, Florida statute used to read: "The Legislature finds that... the impacts of global climate change can be reduced through the reduction of greenhouse gas emission." That was removed and replaced with: "The purpose of the state's energy policy is to ensure an adequate, reli-

See CLIMATE on Page 7

'Our tax dollars pay your salary'

By MICHAEL VARGA
The Fulcrum

Michael Varga, author of "Under Chad's Spell," was a Foreign Service office r, serving in Dubai, Damascus, Casablanca and Toronto.

Two Americans were asking for a meeting with me. They had traveled from Alabama to Washington to lobby for more assistance to Lebanon, the country from which their fathers had fled to begin lives in the United States. I was the desk officer for Lebanon at the State Department. It was a fraught time with American hostages still being held.

The 1992 election had just happened, and Bill Clinton was the new president. I welcomed them into my tiny office and offered Arabic coffee that I brewed myself.

They told me about how their families had to reconfigure in America since Lebanon's destructive civil war had forced their fathers to flee. They said they were born in America—and had U.S. passports—but still felt an obligation to try to assist their extended families back home in Tripoli and Beirut. I asked what they wanted from the U.S. government.

"We want Lebanon to be a higher priority," Mustapha said.

"It seems like Israel gets all the focus. The Middle East has so many countries that struggle under anti-democratic regimes. We think the U.S. can do so much more," explained Abderrahim.

I explained that my whole focus was the bilateral relationship between the U.S. and Lebanon. I told them that I often worked long hours, even on weekends, when some new crisis developed.

"It's good to hear that," Mustapha said. "I'm sure the guy in this job under Bush wasn't doing that."

"I don't have to remind you that our tax dollars pay your salary. We just want to know that that money is being well-managed in regard to Lebanon," Abderrahim added. A little bit of sharper tone came with that warning.

I didn't have the heart to tell them that as a career Foreign Service officer, I had been the desk officer under George H.W. Bush. I was continuing in the same job, even with a change in presidents. I assured them that we were doing all we could, mentioning that I had held a recent meeting with the staff of Sen. Jesse Helms. The senator had placed a hold on our ability to make available to the Lebanese army excess defense articles that the Pentagon no longer needed.

They left my office, seeming satisfied with what they had accomplished. But it left me with the feeling that so many Americans didn't fully grasp how the career bureaucracy keeps the government operating, through every cycle of new occupants in the Oval Office.

In this year of so much polarizing discussion about how Donald Trump intends to reform the agencies of the executive branch, I think it's important to underscore the value of what the MAGA folks malign as the "deep state." Foreign Service officers work in embassies and consulates throughout the world. While ambassadors are often political appointees, most of the other officers are part of the career service, in place no matter which political party controls the White House or Congress. That's a good thing.

We want continuity in our policies in determining our bilateral relationships with the nations of the world. We want institutional memory to be retained as to what has been previously agreed to in establishing these working relationships. If you have a wholesale change of these career officials, you risk having to reinvent the wheel all over again. What a waste that is.

During my first assignment as a Foreign Service officer in Dubai in 1985, I had to meet with a U.S. flag vessel's crew in the Persian Gulf after it had been boarded and held by the Iranian Navy. I had to interview the crew about the way the Iranians had treated them. The Iran-Iraq war was keeping everyone nervous. Under a ticking clock, Washington wanted to know how serious the breach had been. Was any retaliatory action by U.S. forces warranted? Fortunately, that instance proved to be a mere skirmish in the battle for influence in the Middle East.

But as you consider these claims among politicians that bureaucrats are the devil that must be expunged, think of the career diplomats who work tirelessly in some of the most dangerous places in the world to ensure consistency in U.S. foreign policy. Yes, your tax dollars are paying their salaries. I assure you you're getting a great return on your investment.

It isn't a crime if MAGA does it

By FRANCIS WILKINSON
Bloomberg Opinion

Francis Wilkinson is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering US politics and policy. Previously, he was executive editor for the Week and a writer for Rolling Stone.

Three years after he resigned in disgrace, Richard Nixon justified his crimes in office by declaring in an interview with David Frost, "It's not a crime if the president does it." The comment was widely mocked at the time. It seems less comical now. Indeed, Nixon's words became newly relevant when Donald Trump asked the US Supreme Court to declare him immune from prosecution for his alleged sprawling malfeasance.

Two news stories last week confirmed that Trump's appeal for legal dispensation is not merely another narcissistic flight of fancy. His special pleading no longer even qualifies as idiosyncratic. Immunity from public censure, including the strictures of the law itself, is an operational goal of the anti-democratic movement that Trump leads. Its functional creed is it's not a crime if MAGA does it.

Thus a famously partisan Supreme Court justice rationalizes his household flying an upside-down distress flag in the aftermath of the violent Jan. 6 assault on the nation's constitutional integrity, in seeming solidarity with insurrectionists (and with the spouse of another Supreme Court justice, who vigorously cheered the insurrection).

The New York Times reported: "After President Biden won the 2020 election, supporters of former President Donald J. Trump rallied around the inverted flag, displaying it at their homes, on their cars and on social media to show that they believed Mr. Trump's lie that the election was stolen."

In comments conveyed, tellingly, to Fox News, Justice Samuel Alito defended his household's inverted flag as a response to a quarrel with neighbors. In Alito's telling, flying the flag wasn't his fault. His wife did it. Not that there was anything wrong with it. The couple was under attack by nasty neighbors who used crude language and showed animus toward MAGA's supreme leader. Fox News reported that Alito said the neighbors even mounted a sign blaming Alito's wife for the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol. What else could a powerless middle-class White couple in the wilds of suburban Washington do to defend itself against the awful libs?

Alito is arguably the most MAGA of justices; his jurisprudence is less originalist or textualist than Trumpist or Foxist. Flying a partisan flag is consistent with his grievance-saturated partisanship. But even for Alito, association with the central lie animating a violent attempt to overthrow the republic is a grotesque breach of ethics and common sense.

Except it's not corrupt if a MAGA judge does it, and it's not criminal if a MAGA mob does it.

In Texas last week, Governor Greg Abbott extended the parameters of MAGA's impunity from assault to murder. Abbott pardoned Daniel Perry, a White man who in 2020 drove his car into a crowd of Black Lives Matter protesters in Austin and gunned down one who approached his car. Both men were legally armed. Thanks to laws backed by Abbott and his GOP allies, virtually anyone, including Perry, who fantasized in writing about murdering protesters, could legally carry in Texas. No witness claimed that the victim, Garrett Foster, a 28-year-old former US Air Force mechanic, had brandished his semi-automatic rifle; it had been pointed at the ground. So, Perry had no legal justification for shooting Foster, and after a public trial, a jury of his peers convicted him of murder.

Perry's writings revealed him to be a racist who compared BLM protesters to "monkeys." BLM, of course, is a bogeyman of MAGA, which seeks to bolster traditional racial hierarchy, opposes efforts to mitigate racial discrimination, and portrays White Christians as an oppressed class in a society in which power pools disproportionately among White Christians.

In effect, Perry murdered one of MAGA's designated bad guys. And murder is not a crime if MAGA does it.

Abbott's pardon calls to mind a neologism that has gained currency in recent years: that conservatives deploy the law as a shield or sword depending on the identity of the protagonists. For MAGA, the shield of law protects. For non-MAGA, the sword of law punishes. Kyle Rittenhouse, a young White man whose sole accomplishment is having recklessly killed protesters and beaten the rap, is celebrated on the MAGA circuit for embodying this ideal. A Missouri couple who threatened peaceful, lawful, protesters with semi-automatic firearms in 2020 similarly became MAGA heroes, earning a speaking spot at that year's Republican National Convention. In 2021, Missouri Republican Governor Mike Parson pardoned them.

Before he left office in 2021, Trump pardoned an array of criminals, including Paul Manafort, the "grave counterintelligence threat" mired in corruption and Russian intrigue whom Trump had placed atop his 2016 campaign. Manafort refused to cooperate with prosecutors, and Trump rewarded him, as he did MAGA cronies Steve Bannon and Roger Stone.

These pardons are readily explained by Trump's gangland code. But the former president has all but guaranteed that he would, in a second term, pardon the criminals who attacked the Capitol, as well. Trump's valorization of crime was similarly evident in his support for military service members, including former Navy SEAL Edward Gallagher, accused of war crimes. "These are great warriors," Trump said.

Degenerate political movements, including Trump's aspirational model, Putinism, inevitably recruit criminals to their ranks and make violent use of them. MAGA, which has now consolidated its control of the GOP, increasingly breeds threats of violence. Its leader, facing a mountain of evidence of criminal acts, and desperate to avoid jail, threatens violence. Abbott, Alito and other MAGA leaders fuel the threat.

It's entirely plausible, if Trump is returned to power, that he would pardon the criminal who violently assaulted the husband of former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Trump has joked about the attack. A pardon for Paul Pelosi's attacker is no more outlandish than the pardon issued by Abbott last week. In MAGA ideology, the law binds but does not protect MAGA's opponents. And it protects but does not bind MAGA.

It's not a crime if MAGA does it.

MAY IS PHILIPPINE HERITAGE MONTH

Old school/new school PH poets

(a contrast from the 19th century to 21st century)

PH is now the accepted abbreviation for the Republic of the Philippines

Leona Josefa Florentino, b.1849 - d.1884, "was a Filipina poet who wrote in Spanish and Ilocano. She is considered as the mother of Philippine women's literature serving as "bridge from oral to literary tradition and as a pioneer in Philippine lesbian literature."—Wikipedia.

BLASTED HOPES

What gladness and what joy are endowed to one who is
loved for truly there is one to share all his sufferings and
his pain. My fate is dim my stars are low perhaps nothing
to it can compare, for truly I do not doubt for presently I
suffer so. For even I did love the beauty whom I desired
never do I fully realize that I am worthy of her.
Shall I curse the hour when first I saw the light of day would
it not have been better a thousand times I had died when I
was born. Would I want to explain but my tongue remains
powerless for now I do clearly see to be spurned is my lot.
But would it be my greatest joy to know that it is you I love,
for to you I do vow and a promise I make it's you alone for
whom I would lay my life."

A rap excerpt from Ruby Ibarra

PH rapper Ruby Ibarra was born in Tacloban City, PH on Feb. 25,1988 or 1991. (sources differ on the years).
She raps in Tagalog, Waray, and English with raps about her cultural heritage and experiences as an immigrant to the U.S. She co-founded the Pinay Rising scholarship program for mainly Filipina students in higher education, who are also pursuing visual and performing arts. You can find her on YouTube, Pandora, and Spotify. Here is an excerpt from a 2017 release, Circa 1991 US. featuring Ruby, Klassy and Faith Santilla:

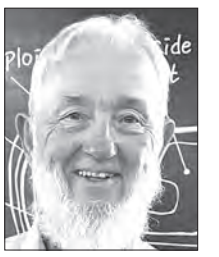
HOOK (Klassy)

Island woman rise, walang makakatigil / Brown woman, rise,
alamin ang yung ugat / They got nothin'on us (aye!) Nothin' on
us (aye!) [repeat that twice] Isang bag sak/
VERSE 1 (Ruby Ibarra)
Yo f… a story arc if it don't involve no matriarchs /
Our mother work from the ground up, they craftin air like ATR /

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.



With the butterfly sleeves naka Filipiniana,
pag nagsalita mga banat ay bala/
'Wag magtaka kung ako ay makata bulok na sistema,
korakot sa pera bagsak ! /
But we puttin' our heart into darkness, they puttin' these pigs
into office/
Oh you thinkin' you schoolin' ? but you hella lost cause you
Betsy
Devos while I taught this/
But look at my ate she movin so cold, can't hold a candle to her
when she glow/
Flick of the wrist with the ilaw she hold, Pandanggo sa ilaw,
she drippin in gold/ …" the rap continues from here.

(A comment. Do you remember Betsy Devos? She was Trump's cabinet Secretary of Education for four years. Her legacy was a complete horror show for teachers, students, and democracy.)

CLIMATE

From page 6

able, and cost-effective supply of energy for the state..."

In some ways, the new law is a symbolic move that Florida is "rejecting the agenda of the radical green zealots," as DeSantis said last week. The state, for example, doesn't attract much wind energy investment because of its lower wind speeds. Therefore, the practical effects of the HB 1645 might be minimal — though it could stifle future innovation if wind energy becomes more feasible in the state, the Times/Herald Tallahassee Bureau reported.

House Bill 1645 is as much about energy policy as it is about using climate change to launch culture wars as DeSantis fights to stay relevant ahead of a potential presidential bid in 2028. Yet the consequences of a warmer planet are not in some hypothetical dystopian future.

Florida has always been vulnerable to hurricanes, but, thanks to warmer ocean waters, there's evidence they are intensifying more quickly. A warmer ocean also prompted an unprecedented coral reef die-off last year, the Herald reported.

According to NASA: "Due to global warming, global climate models predict hurricanes will likely cause more intense rainfall and have an increased coastal flood risk due to higher storm surge caused by rising seas."

Florida is already dealing with a property insurance crisis as premiums skyrocket and homeowners are dropped by their insurers. Our state leaders would rather ignore how "more intense rainfall" and "increased coastal flood," especially in places like Miami Beach, could make that crisis worse.

Climate change denial—and the politicization of this real problem—has made inaction acceptable. How much longer can we pretend reality isn't happening before living in Florida becomes too unbearable?

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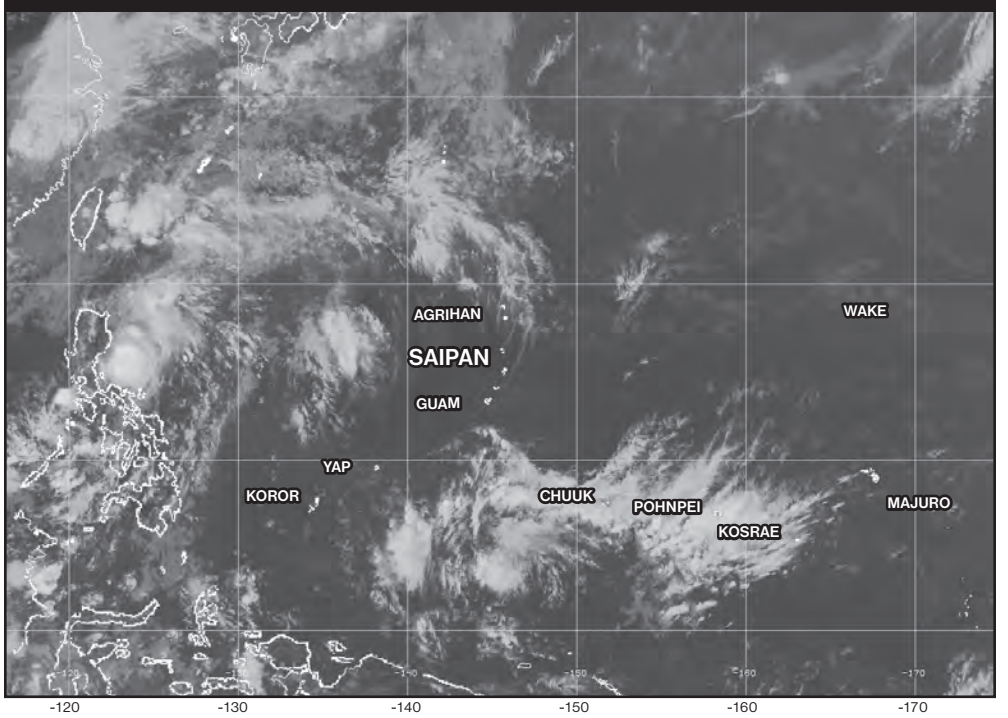
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
89° 79°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:09 AM MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Latest satellite shows low and mid clouds and isolated showers over and east of the Marianas coastal waters. Altimetry data shows 3 to 5ft seas just east of the waters.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	91° / 82°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 79°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 81°
Chuuk	Cloudy	89° / 81°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Wednesday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:44 AM	11:09 PM
Wednesday	-	10:45 AM	11:56 PM
Thursday	-	11:44 AM	5:48 AM
Friday	12:39 AM	12:41 PM	-
Saturday	1:20 AM	1:36 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Light Rain	59° / 53°
Beijing	Fair	84° / 57°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°
Honolulu	Showers	84° / 73°
London	Showers	73° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 59°
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 77°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	59° / 41°
Miami	Thunderstorm	83° / 74°
New York	Fog	79° / 65°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 67°
Paris	Thunderstorm	77° / 61°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	77° / 64°
Rome	Sunny	82° / 63°
Salem	Thunderstorm	90° / 72°
San Francisco	Sunny	64° / 54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	72° / 57°
Tokyo	Cloudy	77° / 69°
Washington, DC	Light Rain	88° / 69°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:10 AM	High Tide	2.02
5:27 AM	Low Tide	1.57
9:30 AM	High Tide	1.89
5:20 PM	Low Tide	-0.18

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 7, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:40AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:35PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Australia plans to send aid to PNG as rain raises safety fears at deadly landslide site

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Australia prepared on Monday to send aircraft and other equipment to help at the site of a deadly landslide in Papua New Guinea as overnight rains in the South Pacific nation's mountainous interior raised fears that the tons of rubble that buried hundreds of villagers could become dangerously unstable.

Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles said his officials have been talking with their Papua New Guinea counterparts since Friday, when a mountainside collapsed on Yambali village in Enga province, which the United Nations estimates killed 670 people. The remains of only six people had been recovered so far.

"The exact nature of the support that we do provide will play out over the coming days," Marles told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"We've got obviously airlift capacity to get people there. There may be other equipment that we can bring to bear in terms of the search and rescue and all of that we are talking through with PNG right now," Marles added.

Papua New Guinea is Australia's nearest neighbor and the countries are developing closer defense ties as part of an Australian effort to counter China's growing influence in the region. Australia is also the most generous provider of foreign aid to its former colony, which became independent in 1975.

AP

In this photo provided by the UNDP Papua New Guinea, villagers search through a landslide in Yambali village in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea, Sunday, May 26, 2024.

Heavy rain fell for two hours overnight in the provincial capital of Wabag, 60 kilometers (35 miles) from the devastated village. A weather report was not immediately available from Yambali, where communications are limited.

But emergency responders were concerned about the impact of rain on the already unstable mass of debris lying 6 to 8 meters (20 to 26 feet) deep over an area the size of three to four football fields.

An excavator donated by a local builder Sunday became the first piece of heavy earth-moving machinery brought in to help villagers who have been digging with shovels and farming tools to find bodies. Working around the still-shifting debris is treacherous.

Serhan Aktoprak, the chief of the International Organization for Migration's mission in Papua New Guinea, said water was seeping between the debris and the earth below, increasing the risk of a further landslide.

He did not expect to learn the weather conditions at Yambali until Monday afternoon.

"What really worries me personally very much is the weather, weather, weather," Aktoprak said. "Because the land is still sliding. Rocks are falling," he added.

Papua New Guinea's defense minister, Billy Joseph, and the government's National Disaster Center director, Laso Mana, flew on Sunday in an Australian military helicopter from the capital of Port Moresby to Yambali, 600 kilometers (370 miles) to the northwest, to gain a firsthand perspective of what is needed.

Mana's office posted a photo of him at Yambali handing a local official a check for 500,000 kina ($130,000) to buy emergency supplies for the 4,000 displaced survivors.

The purpose of the visit was to decide whether Papua New Guinea's government needed to officially request more international support.

Earth-moving equipment used by Papua New Guinea's military was being transported to the disaster scene 400 kilometers (250 miles) from the east coast city of Lae.

Traumatized villagers are divided over whether heavy machinery should be allowed to dig up and potentially further damage the bodies of their buried relatives, officials said.

Pro-independence leader calls on protesters in New Caledonia to 'maintain resistance' against France

NICE, France (AP)—The leader of a pro-independence party in New Caledonia on Saturday called on supporters to "remain mobilized" across the French Pacific archipelago and "maintain resistance" against the Paris government's efforts to impose electoral reforms that the Indigenous Kanak people fear would further marginalize them.

Christian Tein, the leader of the pro-independence party known as The Field Action Coordination Unit, addressed supporters and protesters in a video message. It was posted on social media two days after he and other pro-independence leaders met with French President Emmanuel Macron during his visit to the territory following unrest that left seven dead and a trail of destruction.

Macron repeatedly pushed for the removal of protesters' barricades with leaders on both sides of New Caledonia's bitter divide—Indigenous Kanaks, who want independence, and the pro-Paris leaders, who do not.

The French president told them that the state of emergency imposed by Paris for at least 12 days on May 15 to boost police powers could only be lifted if local leaders call for a clearing away of barricades that demonstrators and people trying to protect their neighborhoods erected in the capital, Noumea, and beyond.

In the video message, Tein called on protesters to "slightly loosen the grip" on their barricades in Noumea, its suburbs and along the archipelago's main roads in order to transport fuel, food, medicine and facilitate access to health care for the inhabitants of the islands in the North and South.

But Tein insisted that the barricades would remain in place until French authorities lift house arrest warrants for several of his party members, and Macron's government scraps the electoral reform that Kanaks fear will dilute their influence by allowing some more recent arrivals in the archipelago to vote in local elections.

"We remain mobilized (and) maintain all (forms) of resistance," Tein said and urged supporters to remain steadfast and refrain from violence. "There has been too much suffering, there's too much at stake and we must see (this) through (and) achieve our goals in a coordinated, structured and organized way." He added: "Our main objective is for our country to obtain full sovereignty."

AP

Smoke rises during protests in Noumea, New Caledonia, Wednesday May 15, 2024. France has imposed a state of emergency in the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia.

Barricades made up of charred vehicles and other debris have turned parts of Noumea into no-go zones and made traveling around perilous, including for the sick requiring medical treatment and for families fretting about food and water after shops were pillaged and torched.

Police in the northern part of the New Caledonian capital have dismantled several roadblocks in the past several days, but the protesters quickly regrouped and rebuilt them. Tensions remain high throughout the archipelago, local officials said Saturday, despite state of emergency measures that include a 12-hour daily curfew, a ban on public gatherings, the transport of weapons and the sale of alcohol, and a block on TikTok.

In the past seven months, Tein's Field Action Coordination Unit has organized major, peaceful marches in New Caledonia against the Paris-backed voting reform. The unrest began early last week after a demonstration against the legislation under discussion in the French parliament turned violent.

In a separate statement, The Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front, a pro-independence movement, called on Macron to withdraw the electoral reform bill if France wants to "end the crisis."

Both French houses of parliament in Paris have already approved the overhaul. The next step was to have been a special Congress of both houses meeting in Versailles to implement it by amending the French Constitution. That had been expected by the end of June.

Speaking after meeting leaders in New Caledonia, Macron said that he won't force through the contested voting reform that sparked the territory's worst unrest in decades.

Macron called on local leaders to come up with an alternate agreement for the archipelago's future and laid out a road map that he said could lead to another referendum for the territory.

Three earlier referendums were organized between 2018 and 2021 by French authorities as part of the 1988 peace deal. They produced "no" votes against independence although the independence supporters boycotted the last vote in December 2021.

Macron said another one could be on a new political deal for the archipelago that he hopes local leaders will agree on in coming weeks and months after protesters' barricades are dismantled, allowing for a state of emergency to be lifted and for peace to return.

New Caledonia became French in 1853 under Emperor Napoleon III, Napoleon's nephew and heir. It became an overseas territory after World War II, with French citizenship granted to all Kanaks in 1957.

Business

Bird flu virus detected in beef from an ill dairy cow

Bird flu has been detected in beef for the first time, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Friday, but officials said the meat from a single sickened dairy cow was not allowed to enter the nation's food supply and beef remains safe to eat.

The USDA said the virus was found as part of testing of 96 dairy cows that were diverted from the supply because federal inspectors noticed signs of illness during routine inspections of carcasses at meat processing plants. Bird flu was found in only one of those cows.

Bird flu has been confirmed in dairy cattle herds in nine states, has been found in milk and has prompted the slaughter of millions of chickens and turkeys. But finding it in beef is a new development for the outbreak, which began in 2022.

The agency said last month that it would test ground beef for bird flu at retail stores, but it has yet to find any sign of the virus. ***(AP)***

Chamber's 'Effective Communication in the Workplace' Training on June 18

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2024 2nd Quarter Professional Development Training is "Effective Communication in the Workplace" facilitated by Kevin Bautista, executive director to Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

This comprehensive training is scheduled on June 18 at TPOD 01, NMC Campus and offers two sessions: 8:30am-11:00am and 1pm-5pm.

This professional development training is designed to equip participants with the essential skills necessary to increase productivity and success in the workplace.

Key takeaways include:

■ Exploration of fundamental elements:

Such as active listening and clarity, to cultivate effective communication in professional settings.

■ Navigating interpersonal and mass communication dynamics:

To introduce strategies for planning and delivering impactful messages to support informed decision-making both orally and in writing.

Participants are asked to bring their own computer or mobile device to enhance the training experience.

The training fee is $50 for Chamber members and $60 for future-Chamber members.

Due to high demand, seats are filling up quickly. To secure your spot at this professional development opportunity, interested individuals can RSVP by visiting https://saipanchambermp.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/467.

Alternatively, you may contact the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or via email at contactus@saipanchamber.org.

The Chamber is a nonprofit organization in the CNMI with a membership of 123 members and growing. The Chamber is committed to empowering our enterprise as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan's private sector, our vision is to create an Island where businesses, family, and the community succeed as one. ***(PR)***

WANTED: CORRESPONDENTS

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Qualifications:

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Perks

- Not a boring 9am - 5pm job
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No writing work experience? We are willing to train!
Email your application and résumé to Akira Kadokura at akira_kadokura@tanholdings.com or drop them off at the HR office on the second floor of the JP Center building in Garapan, Saipan.

World

EU foreign chief: Israel should respect UN court

BRUSSELS (AP)—The European Union's foreign policy chief insisted Sunday that Israel must abide by the U.N. top court's rulings and end its offensive in the southern Gaza city of Rafah and, at the same time, questioned the possible involvement of authorities in the settler violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

» Also control settler violence in West Bank

On a day that visiting Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa basked in the attention after two EU nations and Norway pledged to recognize a Palestinian state, Josep Borrell further pressured Israel to take immediate actions to make sure that tax income meant for the Palestinian authorities is no longer stopped.

The demands came at the end of the week that saw the international community put increasing pressure on Israel to fundamentally change the course of the war it wages on Hamas in the Gaza Strip through international court action and diplomatic maneuvering.

Borrell insisted Israel had driven the Palestinians to the edge of a catastrophe because "the situation in Gaza is beyond words. The occupied West Bank is on the brink, risking an explosion any time."

While most of the global attention is centered on Gaza, Borrell said that "we should not forget what's happening in the West Bank," where the seat of the Palestinian Authority is based.

"There we see an intensified spiral of violence. Indiscriminate and punishing attacks by extremist settlers, more and more targeting humanitarian aid heading to Gaza. And they are heavily armed. And the question is, who is arming them? And who is not preventing this attack from happening," Borrell said.

Rights groups and Palestinian residents have said that Israeli forces often provide an umbrella of security to armed settlers attacking Palestinian towns and nomadic communities.

WORLD BRIEFS

Death toll in Kharkiv attack rises to 14 as Zelenskyy warns of Russian troop movements

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned Sunday that Russia is preparing to intensify its offensive along Ukraine's northern border, as the death toll rose to 14 in an aerial bomb attack on a large construction supplies store in the city of Kharkiv. The bombing of Kharkiv on Saturday afternoon also left 43 injured and 16 missing, Kharkiv Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said initially after the attack. In a video statement from Kharkiv, Zelenskyy said that Russia is preparing offensive actions 90 kilometers (55 miles) northwest of Ukraine's second largest city. He said that Russians "gather another group of troops near our border." He did not specify where the troops are being assembled, but Ukrainian officials have expressed strong concern about the Sumy region. Both Kharkiv city and Sumy with about 250,000 people are within about 25 kilometers (15 miles) of the Russian border. Moscow's troops have in recent weeks captured villages in the Kharkiv area as part of a broad push, and analysts say they may be trying to get within artillery range of the city. Ukrainian authorities have evacuated more than 11,000 people from the region since the start of the offensive on May 10.

Cyclone floods coastal villages and cuts power in Bangladesh, where 800,000 had evacuated

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A cyclone flooded coastal villages and left hundreds of thousands of people without power Monday in southern Bangladesh, where nearly 800,000 residents had evacuated. At least seven deaths were reported. Cyclone Remal started lashing Bangladesh's southern coast late Sunday and was moving fast and would weaken by noon Bangladesh's Meteorological Department in Dhaka said. TV stations reported that dozens of Bangladeshi coastal villages were flooded as many flood protection embankments were either washed away or damaged by the force of the storm surges. Authorities gave no casualty figures yet, but Dhaka-based Somoy TV reported that at least seven people died. Two others were missing after a boat capsized in southwestern Bangladesh, the station said. Moderate to heavy rainfall had been forecast in coastal districts in India's West Bengal state, where high winds uprooted trees. A 1 meter (3.1 feet) storm surge was expected to flood low-lying coastal areas.The India Meteorological Department expected Remal to reach maximum wind speeds of up to 120 kilometers per hour (75 mph), with gusts up to 135 kph (85 mph) in the area of West Bengal's Sagar Island and Bangladesh's Khepupara region on Sunday night. On Sunday, Bangladesh evacuated nearly 800,000 people from vulnerable areas. Bangladesh's junior minister for disaster management and relief, Mohibur Rahman, said volunteers have been deployed to move the evacuees to up to 9,000 cyclone shelters. The government also closed all schools in the region until further notice.

Life & Style

‘Furiosa,’ ‘Garfield’ lead slowest Memorial Day box office in decades

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

Movie theaters are looking more and more like a wasteland this summer. Neither “Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga” nor “The Garfield Movie ” could save Memorial Day weekend, which is cruising towards a two-decade low.

“Furiosa,” the Mad Max prequel starring Anya Taylor-Joy and Chris Hemsworth, claimed the first-place spot for the Friday-Saturday-Sunday weekend with $25.6 million, according to studio estimates on Sunday. Warner Bros. is waiting until Monday to release its four-day estimates.

“The Garfield Movie,” animated and family-friendly, was the other big new offering this weekend from Sony’s Columbia Pictures and Alcon Entertainment. It is claiming No. 1 for the four-day holiday weekend with an estimated $31.9 million in ticket sales through Memorial Day. Sony estimates its three-day earnings to be $24.8 million.

AP
This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Anya Taylor-Joy in a scene from “Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga.”

Aside from Memorial Day in 2020 when theaters were closed due to COVID-19, these are the lowest earning No. 1 movies in 29 years, since “Casper” earned $22.5 million (not adjusted for inflation) in its first four days in 1995. Big earners are more typical for the holiday weekend, which has had ten movies crack $100 million, led by “Top Gun: Maverick’s” record-setting $160 million launch in 2022. Last year, the live-action “The Little Mermaid” joined the group with a $118 million debut. Audiences even turned out in greater numbers over the pandemic-addled weekend in 2021 for “A Quiet Place Part II,” which made over $57 million.

“This was a rather slow Memorial weekend,” said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. “A few things didn’t happen that created this situation: We didn’t have a tailwind heading into the summer. We kicked off the summer minus a Marvel movie. In a way, we’ve been playing catch up all year long.”

“Furiosa” was never expected to join the $100 million opener club, which Warner Bros. released on 3,804 screens in the U.S. and Canada. But it was supposed to have a slightly stronger showing in the $40 million range over its first four days. That would have been more in line with its predecessor, “Mad Max: Fury Road,” which opened to $45.4 million in May 2015. “Fury Road,” starring Charlize Theron and Tom Hardy, went on to gross nearly $380 million worldwide.

This new origin story in which Taylor-Joy plays a younger version of Theron’s character had a lot of things going for it, too, including strong reviews out of the just-wrapped Cannes Film Festival (it has an 89% on Rotten Tomatoes) and a splashy international press tour with many buzzy premiere looks from Taylor-Joy. Internationally, it made $33.3 million adding up to a $58.9 million global launch. With a reported $168 million production budget, not accounting for marketing and promotion, “Furiosa” has a long road to profitability.

“The Garfield Movie,” meanwhile, was more modestly budgeted, at a reported $60 million and is being looked at as a solid launch for the franchise. It previously opened internationally and has earned over $66 million to date. Its domestic launch far surpassed the first weekends of previous attempts at Garfield movies.

Chris Pratt voices the lasagna-loving, Monday-hating orange cat in the movie that got scathing reviews from critics (it has a 37% on Rotten Tomatoes). Audiences meanwhile gave both “Furiosa” and “The Garfield Movie” a B+ CinemaScore and 4.5 stars out of 5 on PostTrak.

In its second weekend, John Krasinski’s “IF” fell 53%, adding $16.1 million through Sunday and $20.7 million through Monday, bringing its domestic total to $63.3 million. Worldwide, it has surpassed $100 million. “Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes,” now in its third weekend, added $13.4 million through Sunday, bringing its global total to $294.8 million, making it the fourth-highest grossing film of the year.

This all adds up to a summer moviegoing season that will not only fall short of a normal $4 billion stretch but may even struggle to reach $3 billion. Earlier this week, the industry trade The Hollywood Reporter asked “ what happened to the $100 million opener? ” Notably, 2024 has had none yet. The biggest of the year was “Dune: Part Two,” which opened to $82.5 million and went on to earn over $711 million worldwide.

“Moviegoing begets moviegoing,” Derarabedian said. “Every studio is rooting for every other studio to have a big hit.”

The lack of a recent runaway hit just puts more pressure on the upcoming films to make up the slack. Still on the way are a slew of potential blockbusters like Paramount’s “A Quiet Place: Day One” (June 27), Universal’s “Despicable Me 4” (July 3) and “Twisters” (July 19) and two heavy-hitters from Disney: “Inside Out 2” (June 14) and “Deadpool & Wolverine” (July 26).

Former ‘General Hospital’ actor killed in downtown Los Angeles shooting

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Former “General Hospital” actor Johnny Wactor was shot and killed when he interrupted thieves stealing the catalytic converter from his car in Los Angeles, his family said Sunday.

Wactor

The shooting occurred around 3 a.m. Saturday when the victim approached three men in downtown LA, according to the Los Angeles Police Department.

His mother, Scarlett Wactor, told ABC 7 that her 37-year-old son had left work at a rooftop bar with a coworker when he saw someone at his car and thought it was being towed. A mask-wearing suspect opened fire, his mother said.

Three suspects drove away from the scene, police said. Wactor was rushed to a hospital, where he died.

There were no arrests as of late Sunday.

Wactor’s agent, David Shaul, said the actor was “a real moral example to everyone who knew him.”

“In the highs and lows of a challenging profession he always kept his chin up and kept striving for the best he could be,” Shaul said in a statement Sunday. “Our time with Johnny was a privilege we would wish on everyone. He would literally give you the shirt off his back. After over a decade together, he will leave a hole in our hearts forever.”

Wactor portrayed Brando Corbin on the ABC soap opera from 2020 to 2022. He also appeared in a variety of films and TV series, including “Station 19,” “NCIS,” “Westworld” and the video game “Call of Duty: Vanguard.”

Man asked his girlfriend to decline a wedding role

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 29-year-old man who has been with a fantastic woman, 25, for the last year. I believe she is The One. We have moved quickly and have already settled into an apartment together.

Recently, she was asked to be a bridesmaid in a wedding between her ex’s cousin and a friend she met through her ex. Her ex will be a part of the wedding. She isn’t very close with this friend. It seems like the bride-to-be doesn’t have many other friends.

It is clear to me that my girlfriend really wants to attend this wedding. I asked her to see if we could attend the wedding without her being a bridesmaid, but she’s under the impression that we wouldn’t be invited otherwise. I felt like I couldn’t say no, so I agreed to go if she agreed she wouldn’t attend any event where her ex would be present.

But now she has agreed to be a bridesmaid, and I find myself getting upset every time the wedding is mentioned. I haven’t begun to feel resentful toward her, but I’m worried this may change as the wedding draws closer. I want to be supportive, but I also can’t ignore that I am clearly not OK with this arrangement. What should I do?

NEW BOYFRIEND IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR BOYFRIEND: You should not be placing stipulations on your girlfriend, who is part of the wedding. For her to back out on her promise to be in the bridal party would be bad form. Pressuring her to do that is childish on your part.

You have an opportunity to be a hero and conquer your insecurity. Grab hold of it and send your girlfriend to the wedding ... alone. And when you do, smile, give her a hug and tell her you hope she has a good time, and that you will be waiting with open arms when she gets back.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: “Shattered in New York” (Jan. 14) was struggling with the fact that her wife, “Sandy,” was supporting a friend entering into a new relationship soon after her wife was admitted into a dementia care facility. The reality is, the person you love no longer exists. Yes, physically they are there, but the person they once were is not, and it’s devastating.

My dad has dementia, and while my mom makes sure he’s safe, happy and visits him every day, she is certainly no longer in a marriage with an actual partner. She is alone, and we all support her finding companionship while Dad is alive.

It’s incredibly unfair to expect someone in that situation to wait alone, potentially for years, for their spouse to pass. You doubted that Sandy would want Shattered to move on if Sandy were in that situation. I feel confident that she is understanding enough that she would.

KNOWS HOW IT IS

DEAR KNOWS: I would hope so, but if my mail is any indication, there are no guarantees. This is a complicated situation, and the solution has to be something appropriate for everyone involved.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

OK, THE FIRST THING WE NEED IS A NAME FOR OUR SECRET CLUB.
LET'S CALL IT "THE HOBBES FAN CLUB"!
THE HOBBES FAN CLUB?! GIVE ME A BREAK! I'M SURE!
THIS IS A TOP-SECRET SOCIETY! THE NAME SHOULD BE SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS! SOMETHING VAGUELY OMINOUS AND CHILLING!
SOMETHING LIKE, "THE SINISTER ICY BLACK HAND OF DEATH CLUB"?
I STILL LIKE MY IDEA BETTER.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF RAGE ROOMS? OH, I'LL BET YOU'D FIND IT HELPFUL.
YOU GO INTO THIS ROOM AND YOU GET TO SMASH PLATES AND STUFF WITH A CROWBAR WHILE SCREAMING. THEY SAY IT'S A GREAT WAY TO LET OUT YOUR FEELINGS FROM AN ANGRY OR TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE.
SHE STILL DOESN'T WANT TO GO OUT WITH ME AGAIN.
5/23

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

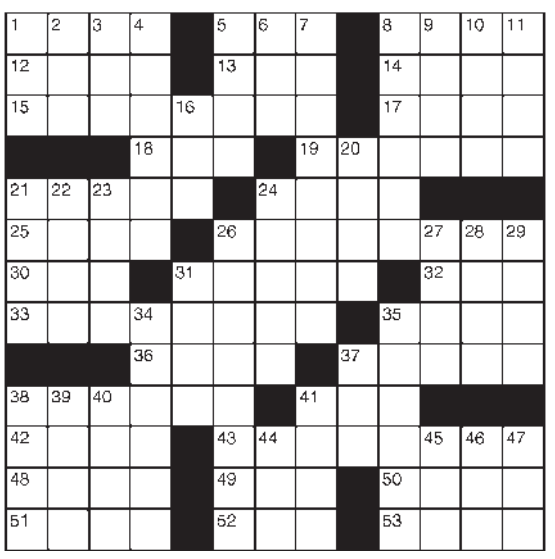
ACROSS
1 Praise
5 Lemon
8 Self-referential
12 Bayou soup veggie
13 Singer DiFranco
14 Victor's cry
15 Perchlike fish
17 Fasting period
18 USN officers
19 San Diego team
21 Lieu
24 Yearn
25 Labels
26 County of England
30 "Let You Love Me" singer Rita
31 Book's page number
32 Weeding tool
33 Sound system holder
35 Shore bird
36 Crusty bread parts
37 Identifies
38 Coiffure
41 Architect I.M. —
42 North Carolina university
43 Protective software
48 Low-calorie
49 Peyton's brother
50 Location
51 Beloved
52 Heart chart (Abbr.)
53 Little lice

DOWN
1 Near the ground
2 Alias abbr.
3 Web address
4 Texas city
5 Calendar squares
6 French article
7 De-moralize
8 Bath-room cleaner target
9 Orna-mental jug
10 Vocal quality
11 Picnic invaders
16 Time-table abbr.
20 Part of A.D.
21 Pack cargo
22 Actress Reid
23 Alike (Fr.)
24 Greek city-state
26 Apart-ment owner's cost
27 Throat clearer
28 Tradi-tional tales
29 Camera part
31 Pay for
34 "Camelot" lyricist
35 East Asian country
37 Formerly called
38 Main-tained
39 "I cannot tell —"
40 Teeny bit
41 Bluenose
44 Variety
45 NPR's Shapiro
46 Allow
47 Vegas lead-in

Solution time: 22 mins.

Y	O	M		S	C	R	A	M		R	A	M
E	U	R		E	R	O	D	E		E	L	O
P	R	I	N	C	E	T	O	N		M	O	O
			I	R	A		B	U	S	I	E	R
M	A	L	L	C	T		C	D	C	N		
A	L	C		T	C	T		O	R	G	A	N
T	A	X	I		S	H	F		A	T	F	F
S	W	I	G	S		C	T	I		O	R	A
		N	O	T	H		C	A	N	N	O	T
D	F	G	R	F	F		H	U	F			
O	R	T		A	R	L	I	N	G	T	O	N
N	G	O		M	F	A	N	T		A	V	A
S	O	N		S	I	N	G	S		B	A	T

Yesterday's answer 5-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carey Mulligan, 39; Kylie Minogue, 56; Christa Miller, 60; Gladys Knight, 80.

Happy Birthday: Gather information and explore the possibilities. It's up to you to create what you want and pursue your dreams. A disciplined approach and a desire for change will help you overcome hurdles that have held you back in the past. Put your energy into persuading others to support and help you. Turn your attention to what and who makes you happy, and you'll discover the path to freedom. Your numbers are 7, 10, 18, 23, 34, 36, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't wait for someone else to take over. Do your part, show everyone what you have to offer, and be the one to contribute and make a difference. Cash will come to you if you take advantage of an opportunity. Step into the spotlight and do what you do best. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Change begins with you. Take the initiative, do your research and make things happen. Stop dreaming and start doing, and you'll gain respect and support from those with something to offer. Keep going until you are satisfied with the results. Go the distance. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Travel, communication and discovery are worthwhile. What you learn will help shape your path and motivate you to head in the right direction. Share your feelings and intentions with someone you love; it will improve your journey. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Live, laugh and learn. What you are willing to do and to give will determine your returns. Make today beneficial in every way possible with a positive attitude and a willingness to explore and try something new and exciting. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* People and situations that pull at your heartstrings will draw you. Be helpful, and the lessons you learn will lead to unexpected opportunities that can result in the lifestyle you desire. Review contracts, offers and obligations, and change what isn't working for you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Be careful what you wish for. Someone will offer a partial truth and leave the rest for you to figure out. Do your due diligence and avoid being caught in someone else's drama. Trust your instincts, not what others lead you to believe. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: Sign up to do something you enjoy or that makes you feel good about yourself. Helping others, updating your appearance, or learning something new that can improve your profile or enhance your resume will pay off. Speak from the heart. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Keep life simple. Size up your situation, evaluate what's necessary and make the required changes. Taking control will spare you the aggravation and grief that uncertainty and dealing with unsatisfactory situations can bring about. Cut your losses and make a move. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Go with the flow and see where it takes you. Embrace life, open your heart to the ones you love and take advantage of opportunities before it's too late. Stabilization comes from doing what's right and best for you. Financial gain is within reach. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Do something out of the ordinary, and it will spark your imagination, stimulate your mind, and point you in a new and exciting direction. Sign up for something that intrigues you, and you won't be disappointed. Distance yourself from argumentative people. Choose peace over chaos. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Consider your overhead and set a budget you can live with. Review your skills and do whatever it takes to ensure you can offer the latest and greatest information and hands-on help. Be a trendsetter instead of a follower, and you'll attract positive attention and offers. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Work on your skills and knowledge, and you'll find the path to success. Refuse to let anyone stand in your way or manipulate you to do things that benefit them more than yourself. Concentrate on taking care of your interests and needs before contributing elsewhere. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are appealing, ambitious and strong-willed. You are helpful and energetic.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6	5			9	1		7	
4			8			3		6
		3	6			1		
7		9	1	2	4			3
		6	7	8				1
1		5	9		3		2	
				3				9
9	7	4		1				5
3		1			9			4

Difficulty: ★★ 5/28

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	2	6	4	8	9	5	3	1
4	9	1	3	6	5	8	2	7
3	5	8	7	1	2	9	6	4
1	4	7	9	3	8	6	5	2
5	8	3	6	2	7	4	1	9
2	6	9	5	4	1	3	7	8
8	3	2	1	5	4	7	9	6
9	1	5	8	7	6	2	4	3
6	7	4	2	9	3	1	8	5

Difficulty: ★ 5/27

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SALES DATA REPORTS Solution: 6 letters

Y	E	P	R	O	D	U	C	T	S	L	L	E	S	Y
M	T	E	E	H	S	D	A	E	R	P	S	E	L	V
S	A	I	T	R	T	C	E	L	L	O	C	H	I	O
S	L	R	N	A	F	O	C	U	S	I	T	S	A	L
L	P	I	K	U	I	O	T	D	F	N	U	N	T	U
A	M	R	D	E	T	T	R	F	O	A	S	I	E	M
T	E	R	O	E	T	R	O	M	L	L	A	G	D	E
O	T	T	S	F	S	I	O	G	A	D	L	R	S	C
T	E	I	E	N	I	W	N	P	E	N	E	A	N	E
N	N	M	R	A	W	T	O	G	P	N	C	M	R	N
U	E	E	V	E	M	D	A	H	T	O	A	E	E	S
M	X	F	I	N	A	N	C	E	S	T	G	G	T	U
B	C	V	C	L	A	T	R	A	H	C	A	O	T	S
E	E	S	E	M	C	M	P	R	O	P	O	S	A	L
R	L	N	O	I	T	A	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	L

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Census, Chart, Client, Collect, Details, Dollars, Excel, Finances, Focus, Goal, Managed, Margins, Marketing, Math, Monthly, Negotiate, Number, Office, Opportunity, Page, Patterns, Performance, Presentation, Products, Profit, Proposal, Review, Sale, Sell, Service, Show, Slides, Spreadsheet, Team, Template, Term, Time, Totals, Visual, Volume

Yesterday's Answer: Cranium

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 62 through 77, order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Luka, Kyrie each score 33 as Mavs beat Wolves for 3-0 lead in West finals

DALLAS (AP)—Luka Doncic lunged for the ball after a steal by Anthony Edwards, knocking it far enough away to create a scramble and a jump ball the Dallas superstar won.

The Mavericks made all the big plays again—on both ends of the court—and are a win away from their first trip to the NBA Finals in 13 years.

Doncic and Kyrie Irving scored 33 points apiece and Dallas put together a decisive run in the final five minutes to beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 116-107 on Sunday night for a 3-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

The 14-3 finish gave the Mavs a fifth consecutive playoff victory after Dereck Lively II left with a sprained neck when the rookie center took an accidental shot to the back of the head from Karl-Anthony Towns' knee.

No team in NBA playoff history has rallied from 3-0 down.

"Don't even say it," said Doncic, who will try to clinch his first trip to the NBA Finals in Game 4 on Tuesday night in Dallas. "But it feels great. But we've got to think about next game. Gotta play with the same mentality. They're not going to go away. No way."

AP

Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic, left, and guard Kyrie Irving, right, embrace after their win over theMinnesota Timberwolves in Game 3 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals, Sunday, May 26, 2024, in Dallas.

P.J. Washington Jr., who scored 16 points, put Dallas ahead for good on a tiebreaking corner 3-pointer with 3:38 remaining after Doncic passed to Irving, who sent the ball to Washington.

The co-stars took over from there.

Doncic hit a shot in the lane for a four-point lead, Irving sent the crowd into a frenzy on a falling-down jumper and Doncic found Daniel Gafford for an alley-oop dunk and a 113-105 lead with 34 seconds left. Gafford had just blocked Mike Conley's layup attempt at the other end.

"They're trying to double me the whole game, trying to double Kai, so that just makes us better," Doncic said. "Everybody touches the ball, everybody plays. We come down to the stretch, and we execute."

Edwards had 26 points for the Wolves, but just four after scoring eight consecutive points for Minnesota to get the Wolves even in the third quarter.

"I never think the sky is falling," Edwards said. "I'm always positive, always happy. Been through the works, so the sky's never falling for me."

Towns scored 14 points but missed all eight 3s, including a rushed 27-footer early in the shot clock when the deficit was four with 1:25 remaining.

After taking a 104-102 lead on Kyle Anderson's floater with five minutes to go, Minnesota—which couldn't hold leads of 18 points in the first half and five points in the final 90 seconds of Game 2—missed seven consecutive shots.

"You've got to try to score alongside of them," Wolves coach Chris Finch said. "The whole series, we've struggled to close games. These three-minutes games that we're playing, we're losing."

Doncic, whose game-winning 3-pointer in the final seconds of Game 2 in Minnesota put Dallas firmly in control of the series, was 10 of 20 and 5 of 11 from deep.

Irving, who won the 2016 title alongside LeBron James with Cleveland, scored 14 points in the fourth quarter and finished 12 of 20 and 3 of 6 from long range.

The Mavs, with 2011 NBA Finals MVP Dirk Nowitzki watching from center court, are the closest they've been to the NBA's biggest stage since the big German led them to their only championship.

Edwards was 11 of 24, but took just three shots in the fourth quarter, making two. The 22-year-old star who has acknowledged fatigue in the series had nine rebounds and nine assists.

"We can't be anything but positive at this point," Edwards said. "We can't be negative. Try to get one win at a time."

In the second quarter, Lively absorbed the kind of contact normally found on football fields not far from Kansas City Chiefs stars Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce, the quarterback-tight end pair sitting courtside.

The rookie from Duke stayed on the court holding his head after it snapped forward on the accidental contact. Lively was down for several minutes before appearing dazed as he was helped off the court and taken to the locker room.

Lively fell as Mike Conley, who scored 16 points, was driving for a missed shot, and Towns was pursuing an offensive rebound when his knee hit Lively's head in the second quarter.

The 20-year-old Lively and Gafford, the starter, played a big role in helping Dallas take a 2-0 lead. Lively is 12 of 12 from the field in the series, including three makes in Game 3.

Pacers hope to beat odds by fighting back and extending Eastern Conference finals against Celtics

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Coach Rick Carlisle expects the Indiana Pacers to punch back Monday night.

Yes, he realizes no NBA team has ever rallied from a 3-0 deficit to win a best-of-seven series, and, of course, his players understand a Game 4 victory only assures them of one thing—another trip to Boston for another elimination game.

And yet, Carlisle believes his players are ready to continue the fight.

"We're going to come at these guys harder on Monday," Carlisle said Saturday after losing their first home playoff game this season. "Our fans need to come out and they need to get louder than they've ever been, and we've got to extend this series. We've got to get back on that plane for Game 5."

Clearly, that will be easier said than done.

The Pacers have blown winnable chances in the final minute of Games 1 and 3 and hung close in Game 2—until a left hamstring injury sent All-NBA guard Tyrese Haliburton to the locker room in the third quarter.

He didn't return that night and sat out Saturday, against his wishes. Carlisle did not say Sunday whether Haliburton might play in Game 4. Regardless, the Pacers season comes down to this—win or go home.

"There's no guy in this locker room that's packed it in," Pacers guard T.J. McConnell said. "We're going to have to get one here and extend the series, then go back to Boston and try to make things difficult. But there's no guy in this locker room that's going to quit."

The Celtics know how this works, too.

They've appeared in six of the last eight Eastern Conference finals and they're now just a win away from advancing to the NBA Finals for the second time during that span. Five wins would give the franchise its first championship since 2008.

But a year ago, Boston found itself facing an even trickier proposition after losing the first two games at home before getting blown out at Miami. The Celtics responded to the 3-0 deficit by winning the next three before enduring a rare Game 7 loss at home.

It's a lesson that could serve them well Monday night when they'll try to improve to 6-0 on the road in these playoffs.

"It's huge," All-NBA forward Jayson Tatum said after Boston's sixth straight playoff win. "We're in a great position right now, one win away from the finals. But we know we can't relax for one second. A year ago, we were down 0-3 and figured out a way to force it to seven, so we're not looking past Monday."

Tatum has been the Celtics catalyst in this series, scoring a playoff career-high 36 points twice in the first three games.

The big lead also gives Boston the potential luxury of resting injured players a bit longer.

Starting center Kristaps Porzingis has not played since April 29 because of a strained right calf. Backup center Luke Kornet sat out Saturday with a sprained left wrist, and coach Joe Mazzulla has no reason to rush either back now.

Plus, if the Celtics pull off their first series sweep since beating Brooklyn 4-0 in the first round of the 2022 playoffs, they could get even more rest depending on the twists and turns in the Dallas-Minnesota series. The Mavericks took a 2-0 lead into Sunday night's game at Dallas.

First, though, Boston is focused on closing out the Pacers.

"I believe these past few years we've had some battles and I feel like our group, we've been through it, we understand it, we've had some grueling, tough series and this one is no different," said Celtics center Al Horford, who made seven 3-pointers in Game 3. "This team, it's a very good team. They're very dangerous, there's a reason they're here, and I know we're up three, but it could easily be very different."

The Pacers know it, too, and that's why they intend to show the basketball world just how much fight they still have left Monday night.

"We've got to give everything that we have," said Pacers forward Pascal Siakam, who won an NBA crown with Toronto in 2018. "Obviously, to this point we've had an incredible season and nobody wants to see it end. So we're going to fight to the end, and I think it's like let's get one win and give everything we have to win that game."

Reds sweep Dodgers, extending longest losing streak since 2019 to 5

CINCINNATI (AP)—Jonathan India and Nick Martini each drove in two runs, and the Cincinnati Reds held off the Los Angeles Dodgers for a 4-1 victory on Sunday that extended LA's longest losing streak since 2019 to five.

Brent Suter, Nick Martinez, Carson Spiers and Alexis Díaz combined for a five-hitter. Martinez (2-3) pitched 4 1/3 innings of one-hit ball on a bullpen day for Cincinnati, and Díaz got two outs for his 10th save.

It's the longest slide for Los Angeles since it dropped six in a row from April 8-13, 2019.

Freddie Freeman hit an RBI double in the ninth, stopping a 0-for-22 slide for the Dodgers with runners in scoring position. Freeman then advanced on defensive indifference, but Díaz struck out Teoscar Hernández and Andy Pages swinging.

AP

Cincinnati Reds' Alexis Díaz, left, celebrates with teammate Luke Maile after the Reds defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers in a baseball game Sunday, May 26, 2024, in Cincinnati.

TIGERS 14, BLUE JAYS 11

DETROIT (AP)—Matt Vierling homered twice, including a tiebreaking, three-run drive off Jordan Romano in the ninth inning that gave Detroit a wild win over Toronto after they'd wasted a five-run lead and recovered from a two-run deficit.

Vierling had four hits and tied career highs with two homers and four RBIs.

Carson Kelly hit a three-run homer and Spencer Torkelson hit a solo shot for Detroit, which led 5-0 after three innings, 8-3 after five and 9-5 after six.

Toronto's Isiah Kiner-Falefa homered in the seventh off Tyler Holton, and the Blue Jays took an 11-9 lead with a five-run eighth when Bo Bichette hit a two-run single off Jason Foley and Daulton Varsho hit a three-run homer.

Mark Canha tied the score with a two-run single against Yimi García in the bottom half, his third hit.

RED SOX 2, BREWERS 1

BOSTON (AP)—Jarren Duran had a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning and Boston beat Milwaukee to salvage a series finale.

Rafael Devers had a sacrifice fly for Boston, which completed just its second series win against the Brewers at Fenway Park since 2015. The Red Sox improved to 9-0 on Sundays.

William Contreras' RBI single drove in the Brewers' run.

Ceddanne Rafaela led off the eighth with a double into the left-field corner against Elvis Peguero (4-2) and scored on Durran's single.

Justin Slaten (3-2) struck out the side in the eighth, and Kenley Jansen struck out two in a perfect ninth for his ninth save in 10 chances, the 429th of his career.

MARINERS 9, NATIONALS 5

WASHINGTON (AP)—Julio Rodríguez homered and drove in four runs, and Seattle snapped a four-game losing streak with a win against Washington.

Ty France hit a two-run homer and singled home the go-ahead run for Seattle, which finished 4-6 on an East Coast trip.

With Seattle trailing 5-4, J.P. Crawford doubled leading off the eighth against Dylan Floro (1-1). Crawford took third on a wild pitch and scored on a one-out single by Rodríguez, snapping Floro's 22-inning scoreless streak.

Rodríguez stole second and scored when France grounded a single to right. Rodríguez also capped Seattle's three-run ninth with a two-run single.

METS 4, GIANTS 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Omar Narváez capped a three-run, ninth-inning rally with his first hit of the year at Citi Field after an 0-for-27 start, lifting New York over San Francisco to stop a five-game losing streak.

New York had blown leads from the sixth inning on in its previous three games and had scored three runs in 18 innings before overcoming a 3-1 deficit in the ninth against Tyler Rogers (0-1).

Brandon Nimmo and J.D. Martinez opened with singles and scored on Harrison Bader's one-out double. Brett Baty was intentionally walked and Narváez, who entered after catcher Tomás Nido was pinch hit for in the eighth, singled on an 0-1 pitch.

RAYS 4, ROYALS 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Brandon Lowe drove in three runs with a pinch-hit triple during Tampa Bay's four-run seventh inning, as they stopped Kansas City's eight-game win streak with a victory.

The Rays had lost a season-high six straight.

Kansas City's Michael Wacha (4-5) lost his perfect-game bid in the sixth, and was pulled after Harold Ramírez singled and Isaac Paredes had a double to start the seventh. John Schreiber then hit Randy Arozarena and permitted a fielder's choice grounder before Lowe delivered on the first pitch he saw.

It was Lowe's second hit in 17 at-bats since returning from a strained right oblique.

BRAVES 8, PIRATES 1

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Ronald Acuña Jr. left Atlanta's 8-1 win over Pittsburgh after he tore his left ACL, as they won behind Chris Sale.

Acuña opened the game with a double to right-center field against Martín Pérez. With Marcell Ozuna at the plate, Acuña started toward third on a stolen base attempt and his left knee gave way. The reigning NL MVP remained down for several minutes while being treated, pointing at his left leg before walking off under his own power.

The Braves' initial diagnosis was left knee soreness. But the team announced Sunday night that an MRI showed a complete ACL tear that will require season-ending surgery.

RANGERS 6, TWINS

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Corey Seager homered twice and Nathaniel Lowe had two hits and two RBIs, helping Texas beat Minnesota.

Josh Smith and Leody Tavares had two hits apiece for the World Series champions, who had lost six straight and 12 of 14 overall. The Rangers scored more than four runs for the first time since a 12-11 victory at Oakland on May 8.

Carlos Correa had two hits and an RBI for the Twins, who had won four in a row. Max Kepler had a run-scoring double.

ROCKIES 5, PHILLIES 2

DENVER (AP)—Ryan McMahon hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the first inning, and Colorado sent Ranger Suárez to his first loss of the season in a victory over Philadelphia.

Colorado, last in the NL West at 18-34, took two of three games and ended a streak of 15 straight winning or tied series for the major league-best Phillies (38-16), Philadelphia's longest streak since 1983-84.

Suárez (9-1) allowed season highs of five runs and four walks in six innings, while giving up four earned runs and three hits with eight strikeouts. His ERA rose from 1.36 to 1.75.

Cal Quantrill (4-3) gave up two runs and three hits in six innings.

ASTROS 5, ATHLETICS 2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Ronel Blanco held Oakland in check for seven innings in his return from a suspension and Kyle Tucker hit a two-run homer to lead Houston to victory.

Jose Altuve added a two-run single in front of an announced crowd of 10,927 to help the Astros win the series and improve to 18-4 against the A's over the past two seasons.

Blanco (5-0) looked sharp in his return from a 10-game suspension for having a foreign substance in his glove during a start against Oakland in Houston last week.

ORIOLES 4, WHITE SOX 1

CHICAGO (AP)—Kyle Bradish struck out 11 in seven no-hit innings, and Baltimore beat Chicago for a sweep of their four-game series.

Bradish (1-0), who missed the start of the season because of a right elbow injury, walked four in his fifth start this season. He threw 103 pitches, 63 for strikes.

Danny Coulombe was inserted for the eighth, and Danny Mendick led off with a pinch-hit drive to left for Chicago's only hit of the game. It was Mendick's second homer of the season.

Adley Rutschman and Colton Cowser homered for Baltimore, which closed out a 4-3 trip. The Orioles were swept by St. Louis before their successful stay in Chicago.

MARLINS 3, DIAMONDBACKS 1

PHOENIX (AP)—Ryan Weathers threw six dominant innings, Jake Burger hit a two-run single with two outs in the seventh and Miami beat Arizona.

The surging Marlins took two of three from the Diamondbacks for their fourth consecutive series win. Miami has won nine of 13 after starting the season 10-31.

Weathers (3-4) continued his breakout season with another stellar performance, giving up four hits, walking one and striking out seven. The 24-year-old left-hander has given up just one earned run in his past three starts, spanning 21 innings.

GUARDIANS 5, ANGELS 4

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Ben Lively pitched seven innings of two-run ball, and Cleveland beat Los Angeles for their ninth consecutive win.

It's the longest win streak for Cleveland since it won an AL-record 22 in a row from Aug, 24 to Sept. 14, 2017. It matched the franchise's best 53-game start at 36-17, also accomplished in 1920, 1954 and 1995. The team reached the World Series in all three of those seasons, winning in 1920.

Lively (4-2) allowed four hits, struck out five and walked two. Emmanuel Clase got three outs for his 17th save in 20 chances.

PADRES 5, YANKEES 2

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Luis Arraez and Fernando Tatis Jr. had consecutive RBI singles in the four-run sixth inning and San Diego beat New York to avoid being swept in consecutive home series.

Joe Musgrove pitched well for the Padres in his second start back from the injured list and Jeremiah Estrada (2-0) struck out five straight batters for the win.

Alex Verdugo homered in the ninth off Robert Suarez, the Yankees' sixth long ball this series. Suarez was summoned in the eighth after Wandy Peralta walked two with two outs, and punched out Aaron Judge. Suarez allowed his first run since March 28 but remained perfect in 15th save chances.

The Padres trailed 1-0 entering the sixth and scored four runs on three singles, an error and two walks. It was their first lead at home since beating the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-0 on May 12. They never had the lead in being swept by the Colorado Rockies—who have the NL's worst record—from May 13-15 before losing to the Yankees 8-0 and 4-1.

CARDINALS 4, CUBS 3

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Paul Goldschmidt homered twice and Sonny Gray tossed five scoreless innings to help St. Louis beat Chicago in a game delayed more than 2 1/2 hours at the start by rain.

St. Louis has won five in a row for the first time since winning six straight from July 15-20, 2023, and has won 10 of its last 12.

After the game started at 8:43 p.m. local time following a 2-hour, 33-minute rain delay, Gray (7-2) had another solid outing for the Cardinals. He allowed one hit and struck out eight before being removed after throwing just 74 pitches.

Chicago mounted a late rally against Cardinals closer Ryan Helsley in the ninth. Ian Happ led off with his second homer of the game to make it a one-run game. Nick Madrigal and Mike Tauchmann each hit two-out singles before Seiya Suzuki hit a flyout to deep right-center field to give Helsley his 17th save to tie Cleveland's Emmanuel Clase for the major league lead.

Javier Assad (4-1) allowed four runs and five hits and struck out a career-best eight batters in five innings after not allowing more than two earned runs in any of his previous 10 starts this season. Chicago has lost four in a row and six of eight.

Wawrinka beats fellow 'old-timer' Murray at French Open

PARIS (AP)—After Stan Wawrinka ended Andy Murray's stay at the French Open yet again—and this time, it was perhaps Murray's last singles appearance at Roland Garros—the two long-time opponents, both in their late 30s, met at the net for a handshake, an embrace and a lengthy chat.

Wawrinka, whose trademark one-handed backhand helped him put together a 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 victory in the first-round contest Sunday night, then joined fans in applauding for Murray as he headed toward the locker room.

"It was emotional, for sure. We're getting closer to the end," said Wawrinka, who has won 10 of their 23 meetings since the first in 2005. "We have a lot of respect for each other."

Wawrinka, at 39, is just the third man of at least that age to win a match at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament since 1980. Murray just turned 37, and this contest had the second-oldest combined age for two men in Paris since 2000.

"Obviously disappointed. ... He gave me very few opportunities," said Murray, who was broken early in each set while going 0 for 2 on his break chances. "Physically, tennis is not easy for me nowadays."

By the end, his movement was not what it usually is, even after having hip replacement surgery several years ago. Murray recently returned after tearing ankle ligaments at the Miami Open in March and is 1-3 since coming back.

"My body isn't what it was 10 years ago. I'm fully aware of that," he said.

Theirs was by far the most eagerly anticipated match of Day 1 at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament, featuring a pair of guys who each own a trio of major trophies.

It was not quite on the level of the Day 2 showcase — Rafael Nadal vs. Alexander Zverev — but it earned the high-profile spot in the night session at Court Philippe Chatrier and drew a crowd that loudly cheered when they stepped out under the lights.

Before play began Sunday, tournament director Amélie Mauresmo said she was putting off a planned farewell ceremony for Nadal, who most everyone figured would be competing at the French Open for the final time but said this weekend he didn't want to close the door on a return.

Similarly, Mauresmo said there wouldn't be that sort of adieu to Murray, who has indicated he might retire after this summer. As it is, he is not done in Paris, because he and Dan Evans received a wild-card entry for doubles.

This was his fourth consecutive appearance at the French Open that included a match against Wawrinka, who is 6-1 head-to-head on clay. Wawrinka won their 2015 semifinal in Paris, Murray won a five-set semifinal the next year, and Wawrinka won their first-round contest in 2020. Murray missed the event in 2021-23.

AP

Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka reacts during his first round match against Britain's Andy Murray of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Sunday, May 26, 2024.

GREAT

From page 16

podium finish, they swam their hearts out and represented the CNMI and SCC with great pride. Their coach, SCC's Richard Sikkel attested to their efforts and said, "the kids did great. What an experience for them."

"I am super impressed with the way they conducted themselves during the meet and how well they executed the technical parts of their swims. Their starts (first time diving off a block for them), underwater, and turns all looked good," he said.

Since this was the swimmers' first ever official meet, Sikkel said they entered them with estimated times for their event. With that, he said, "They all beat their expected times and were very poised during their prep and individual events."

P.J., who was the oldest of the group at 11 years old, won his heat in the boys 10-and-over 50m freestyle event. He also finished in the finals of the 100m backstroke with a time of 1:46.96; finished a 1:36.23 100m freestyle; finished at 48.74 seconds in the 50m backstroke; and 38.94 seconds in the 50m freestyle finals.

The Saipan International School student said the experience was "a lot of fun. I was very nervous, so to win my heat was extra special. I'm looking forward to more opportunities to race in future international swim meets if possible."

For Vince Jr., who was first in the heat of the 50m backstroke, said he was excited but nervous at the same time. In the 50m breaststroke, he finished at 1:04.25; 48.68 seconds in the 50m backstroke; and 44.57 seconds in the 50m freestyle.

"I wanted to do well representing Saipan Swim Club," the 8-year-old said. He shared, although he was first in his heat, the touchpad didn't register, but he was glad when the replay video showed his win.

Eight-year-old Olivia, for her part, said that initially she was scared because it was her first time traveling for a sports event. But on the second and third day, she felt a lot better because she got used to the environment.

She finished at 2:00.59 in the 100m individual medley; 1:07.68 in the 50m breaststroke; 54.49 seconds in the 50m backstroke; and 43.11 seconds in the 50m freestyle.

"It was a very fun experience," said the SIS student. "I enjoyed the medley on the first day the most. My favorite part was flying to a different country. I love traveling like Mommy."

For older brother Gabriel, he finished at 1:51.68 in the 100m IM; 54.39 seconds in the 50m breaststroke; 50.83 seconds in the 50m backstroke; and 40.40 seconds in the 50m freestyle.

He said of the experience, "My first international swim meet was scary yet fun. I also enjoyed the medley because I got second in my heat."

The 9-year-old SIS student said, "Swimming and representing the CNMI was my favorite part of the whole trip. I want to do more events in the future."

After the event, the team, which included the Walsh's father Adam and the Seman's father, Vince, went up The Peak tram to enjoy a view of Hong Kong. They then checked out the bird, flower, and goldfish markets in Kowloon, and took a stroll down Hong Kong Harbour.

The Walshes flew back home yesterday, while the Semans and Sikkel are flying back today.

TOURNEY

From page 16

NMI tennis kids of her age remember Dana and are looking forward to reuniting with her. She already has an ITF ranking of No. 955," said Race.

The Top 2 seeded boys are Aidan Lam Meng Bart (world No. 812) from the U.S. and Japan's Eita Suzuki (world No. 862).

The NMI's netters are Simon Tang, June Yu, David Kwon, Matthew Hwang, Henry Choi, Ryan Choi, and Siwoo Lee in the boys division.

In the girls division, it's sisters Serin and Irin Chung, Anne Lee, Hoo Wang, and Hannah Chae.

The last time an ITF J30 event was held on Saipan was in 2019.

An ITF J30 event is a junior event with 30 world ranking points for the winner. Players will play singles and doubles. It is the entry level event for emerging tennis players who are trying to acquire world ranking points to be accepted on the professional tour or win a scholarship to a U.S. college.

Other than the ITF J30, there are also ITF events for 60, 100, 200, and 500 points. and Grand Slams like the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and U.S. Open are worth 1,000 points.

TOP

From page 16

After Peliliu's three runs in the third, they went mum in the fourth and fifth, while Asahi scored their final three runs, for a 16-5 game.

After, No. 2 seed Man Amigos lost to Sufa, 7-12.

Sufa brought out the big bats early and had an 8-3 lead at the end of the third inning.

Sufa scored three in the second, then Audie Maratita cleared the bases with a three-run dinger in the third. Calvani Deleon Guerrero soon followed suit and cleared the bases again with a two-run shot.

After Man Amigos' Peter Sablan's solo homer in the third, they went quiet in the fourth and fifth inning. On the other hand, Sufa continued to add to the scoreboard as they scored one in the fourth, one in the fifth, and two more in the sixth from a homer by Paul Salalila.

Before Man Amigos could score, they were down, 12-3. Only four more runs would score for Man Amigos in the sixth inning from a grand slam by Manny Sablan, but it was too late to catch up as they failed to produce in the last inning.

Tokahao then overpowered Saipal, 15-3;

The only three runs by Saipal were scored by Ray Renguul in the first, Barnard Kileleman in the fourth, and Ben Higgins in the fifth. Besides those runs, Tokahao's pitching was untouchable.

Offensively, Tokahao was also on the other spectrum as they clubbed nine runs in the first. Pitcher Jojo Attao helped his cause and hit a homer in the second, followed by another run by Alvin Takai for a 11-1 lead.

Three more runs would score for Tokahao in the third, followed by one final run in the fourth. The game ended early as Saipal failed to score.

Tuturamz then beat the Redmen, 15-4.

The Redmen kept their runs to a minimum as they scored one in the second and third, then two in the fourth. But Tuturamz had other plans and had a blast in the third as they scored nine runs.

At this point, they were up, 11-1. They then scored two in the fourth and two in the fifth, while the Redmen scrambled up just two more runs for a 15-4 final.

Lastly, Hagu La'mun bid Wazzup adieu, 10-3.

Hagu La'mun's runs were scattered throughout the innings, while Wazzup's short spurt of runs all came in the fifth. With their three runs, it was a 3-7 game.

Then, Hagu La'mun went on to score one more in the fifth and two in the sixth as Wazzup conceded when they couldn't score in the last inning.

In the standings, Asahi leads with a 14-2 record; Man Amigos and Hagu La'mun are tied at 12-4; Sufa is at 11-5; Tokahao broke even at 8-8; Peliliu and Wazzup are at 7-9; Redmen and Tuturamz are 4-12; and Saipal have only won one game for a 1-15 record.

Last Sunday, games were postponed due to the unavailability of the field.

BASA STANDINGS

Asahi	14	2
Man Amigos	12	4
Hagu La'mun	12	4
Sufa	11	5
Tokahao	8	8
Peliliu	7	9
Wazzup	7	9
Redmen	4	12
Tuturamz	4	12
Saipal	1	15

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	37	18	.673	–
Baltimore	33	18	.647	2
Boston	27	26	.509	9
Tampa Bay	26	28	.481	10½
Toronto	23	29	.442	12½

Central Division

Cleveland	36	17	.679	–
Kansas City	34	20	.630	2½
Minnesota	28	24	.538	7½
Detroit	26	27	.491	10
Chicago	15	39	.278	21½

West Division

Seattle	28	26	.519	–
Texas	25	29	.463	3
Houston	24	29	.453	3½
Oakland	22	33	.400	6½
Los Angeles	20	33	.377	7½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	38	16	.704	–
Atlanta	30	20	.600	6
Washington	23	28	.451	13½
New York	22	30	.423	15
Miami	19	35	.352	19

Central Division

Milwaukee	30	22	.577	–
Chicago	27	26	.509	3½
St. Louis	25	26	.490	4½
Pittsburgh	25	29	.463	6
Cincinnati	23	30	.434	7½

West Division

Los Angeles	33	22	.600	–
San Diego	28	28	.500	5½
San Francisco	27	27	.500	5½
Arizona	25	28	.472	7
Colorado	18	34	.346	13½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Luka, Kyrie each score 33 as Mavs beat Wolves for 3-0 lead in West finals

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Wawrinka beats fellow 'old-timer' Murray at French Open

PAGE 15

Great experience for swimmers in HK

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club's Olivia and Gabriel Walsh and P.J. and Vince Seman Jr. had a great experience in Hong Kong for the Hong Kong Island Stingrays Swim Club Annual Summer Invitational Swim Meet 2024.

The two sets of siblings competed in their first ever international event with over 500 swimmers from Hong Kong, the Philippines, China, and Vietnam last Friday to Sunday.

Even if they didn't bag a

See GREAT on Page 15

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Swim Club's young swimmers along with their fathers, Vince Seman, far left, and Adam Walsh, far right, pose with SCC coach Richard Sikkel in Hong Kong for the Hong Kong Island Stingrays Swim Club Annual Summer Invitational Swim Meet 2024 held last Friday to Sunday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left standing, Saipan Swim Club's Vince Seman Jr., Gabriel Walsh, P.J. Seman, and Olivia Walsh, sitting, pose for a group photo after their first international swim meet in the Hong Kong Island Stingrays Swim Club Annual Summer Invitational Swim Meet 2024 held last Friday to Sunday.

55 netters in ITF J30 tennis tourney

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Fifty-five junior netters from around the world are taking on the International Tennis Federation J30 Junior World Ranking Tournament that starts today, Tuesday, May 28, and ends on Sunday, June 2 at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan tennis courts.

LEIGH GASES

File photo shows Irin Chung smacking a return during the 2024 White-Coconut Classic last February at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

There are 32 boys and 23 girls playing from 10 different countries including the NMI, Guam, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, China, Australia, U.S., Great Britain, and Taiwan.

The girls' No. 1 seed in this tourney is China's Peien Deng (world No. 410), and second seed is Australia's Leanne Abouhamad (world No. 672).

The No. 3 seed is Dain "Dana" Lee, who Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president and tourney director Jeff Race is excited to welcome back home to Saipan.

"Now 17 [years old], Dana and her family lived on Saipan until she was 12, when she moved with her mother and brother to attend the IMG Academy in Florida. This is perhaps the world's most famous tennis academy, and we hope that Dana will do well. All the

See TOURNEY on Page 15

LEIGH GASES

File photo shows Dominic Hideo pitching on the mound during the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League. He is currently in Team Asahi of the ongoing 2024 BASA Master's League.

Top seed Asahi clubs Peliliu, 16-5

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Top seed Asahi clubbed Peliliu, 16-5, and retained the No. 1 spot with 14 wins in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association master's division last May 19 at the Dandan Softball Field.

While Asahi had an easy time scoring runs, Peliliu scrambled hard for their only five runs of the game. Two came in the first inning off of runs scored by John Terlaje and Mark Flores, then the last three came in the third inning.

Meanwhile, Asahi didn't want to let go of their bats in the second inning as they drove in run after run. They scored one in the first from Sup Matsutaro, then scored seven in the second.

By the time the inning was over, they had an 8-2 lead. Asahi wasn't done as they scored five more in the third, including a solo round-tripper by Taylor Germance. Then, RBI singles from the bottom of the lineup ensured they didn't strand anyone on base.

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